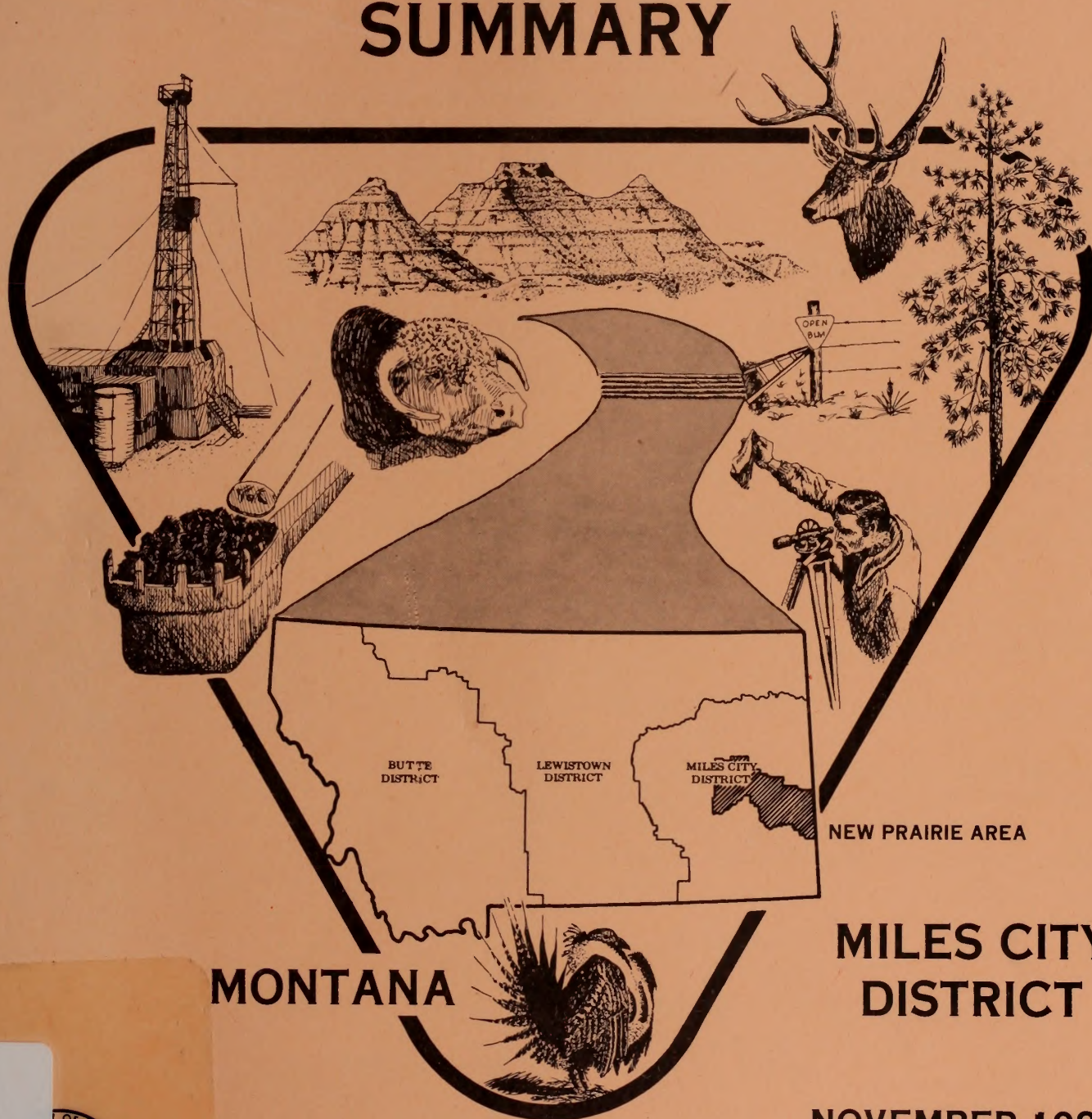


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NEW PRAIRIE

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

SUMMARY



MONTANA

NEW PRAIRIE AREA

MILES CITY
DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 1981

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DRAFT

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Miles City District Office

P.O. Box 940

Miles City, Montana 59301

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1608.4

To All:

This Plan includes recommendations for management of public land resources lying in Fallon, Prairie, Custer and Carter Counties in central east Montana.

Recommendations include a land ownership adjustment program to cope with the scattered pattern of public lands and minerals.

The plan shows 155,925 acres of federal minerals containing 1.8 billion tons of coal to be acceptable for further leasing consideration. A total of 230,364 acres was studied but 74,439 acres were dropped from further consideration. There are no present plans or schedules for leasing this coal. Further study would be required prior to coal leasing.

A 1979 study of public lands in the area showed 80% of the lands to be in good to excellent range condition. Despite that finding, the BLM has set an objective to provide maximum allowable forage for domestic livestock while attaining at least good range condition on all public lands in the area.

Special emphasis will be placed on problem areas such as range in poor to fair condition, crucial big game wintering areas, wind and water erosion susceptible areas, and floodplains and riparian areas. The Big Dry Vegetative Allocation Environmental Impact Statement will assess that portion of these recommendations.

Primary wildlife management objectives in this MFP are directed at improving and maintaining habitat for all species of fish and wildlife. This includes providing high quality habitat to meet increasing future demands on the fish and wildlife resource.

Anticipating increasing future recreational use of public lands, the BLM must take positive steps to assist a well-informed public to better utilize and protect the natural resources available. Included are recommendations to develop river access and use along the Yellowstone River, provide a variety of quality fishing opportunities in the area, and improve public information and education regarding public land resources and use.

Protection and enhancement of other public land resources in the area, including cultural sites and areas of good visual quality, is also recommended.

A preliminary recommendation calls for the designation of the Terry Badlands as a component of the national wilderness system. A final recommendation will be made following the completion of an environmental impact statement. In the meantime, the plan calls for the protection of wilderness values in the Terry Badlands.

A final decision regarding the decisions recommended in this plan will be made by September 1982, following public comment and completion of the vegetation allocation EIS.

Sincerely yours,

Ray Brubaker

Ray Brubaker
District Manager

Bureau of Land Management
Library
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

This document is presented for your review and comment. It summarizes the Multiple Use Recommendations for the New Prairie Management Framework Plan (MFP), Step 2.

Management of BLM administered resources is facilitated through the development and implementation of land use plans. The New Prairie MFP is being prepared for the public resources on approximately 715,300 acres of surface and 1,364,100 acres of subsurface lands under the administration of the BLM in Fallon and Prairie Counties and portions of Custer and Carter Counties. (See Maps 1 and 2.) The MFP Step 2 multiple use recommendations are the culmination of the first two steps in the MFP planning process. Step 1 in the process involved development of single resource use recommendations. The last, Step 3, will be the adoption of recommendations. Your input will be considered in the Step 3 decisions.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The BLM uses a structured approach for land use planning. See Figure 1. The basic steps are:

MFP Step 1

- (1) Identify and analyze the quantity, quality, use, and demands for physical, social, and economic resources;
- (2) Identify potential uses and opportunities for enhancement of the various resources;
- (3) Develop objectives and recommendations for management of each resource;

MFP Step 2

- (4) Analyze impacts on the physical, social, and economic resources and conflicts from individual management recommendations;
- (5) Develop multiple use recommendations;
- (6) Prepare a draft (this New Prairie MFP Summary) document and provide for public review and comment.

MFP Step 3

- (7) Adopt the plan and implement decisions after considering public comment and environmental assessment (late 1982).

STATUS OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL WORK

The Big Dry Vegetative Allocation environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is now being prepared, covering vegetation allocations for three MFP areas in the Big Dry Resource Area. (See Map 1.) These MFPs include the Redwater, Jordan-North Rosebud, and New Prairie areas. The MFP's for these three areas will not be finalized until the Big Dry Vegetative Allocation EIS is completed, late in 1982. The renewable resource allocations addressed in the EIS will be made a part of these unit plans.

This summary was prepared to keep members of the public informed as to the status of preliminary resource multiple use recommendations for the New Prairie MFP area. The recommendations presented here result from the "blending" of single resource issues into multiple use recommendations embracing all pertinent resources, on a given area. These recommendations are not final and are presented for your information and comment. Comments are particularly invited on the preliminary recommendations dealing with coal resources in the New Prairie planning unit.

IMPORTANCE OF YOUR COMMENTS

While the recommendations contained in this MFP Step 2 summary are only preliminary, they may become finalized decisions if no new comments or other data comes to light prior to late 1982. At that time, the final decisions for the New Prairie and Jordan-North Rosebud MFPs and the vegetative allocation portions of the Redwater MFP will be published.

In addition to the review of this document, we will announce through the local media the time and place for public meetings where you may view the supporting documents and maps and discuss them with the specialists who prepared them.

An addressed franked response form is included with this document. Other comments should be mailed to: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 940, Miles City, Mt. 59301. Our telephone number is 232-4331.

B.L.M. PLANNING SYSTEM

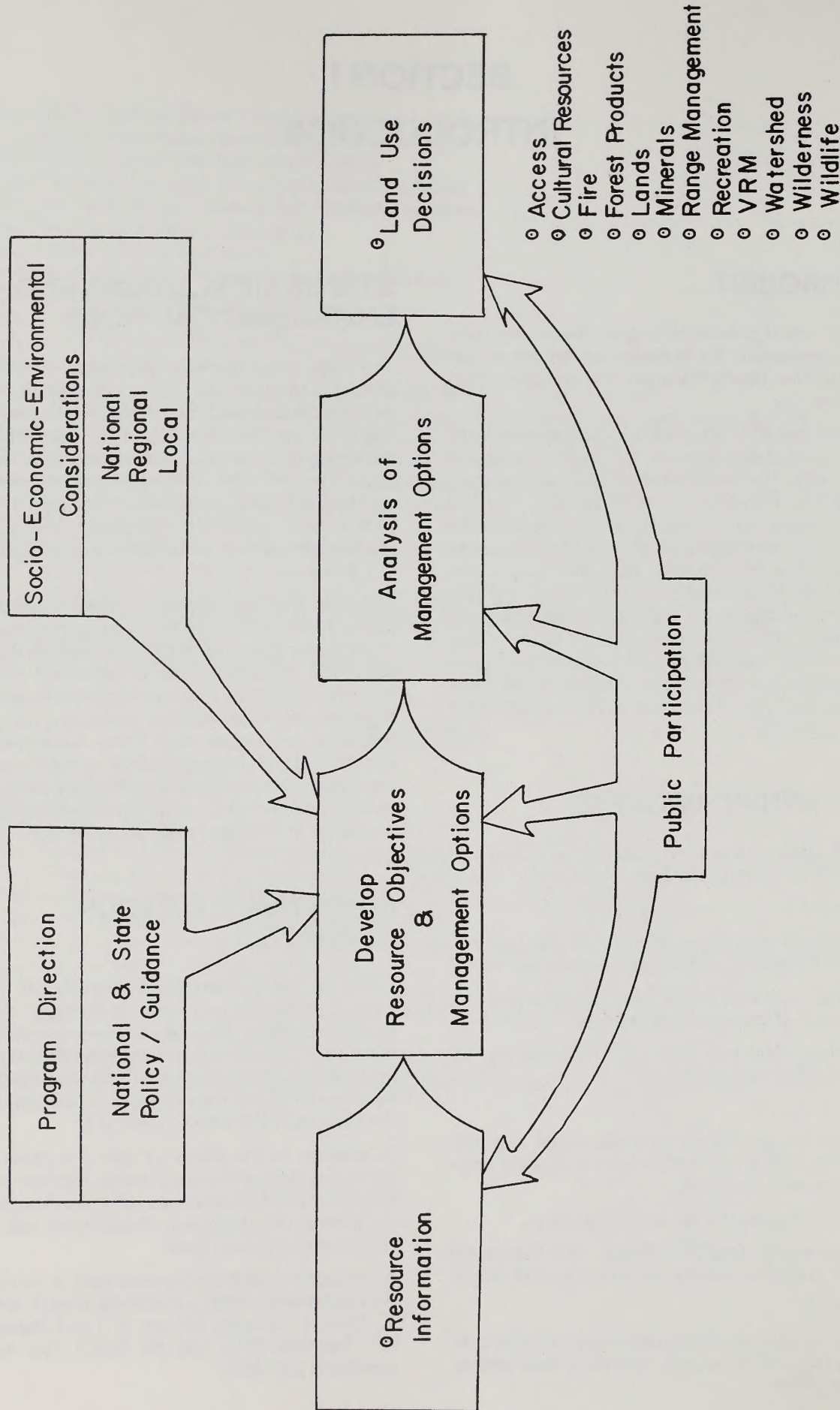
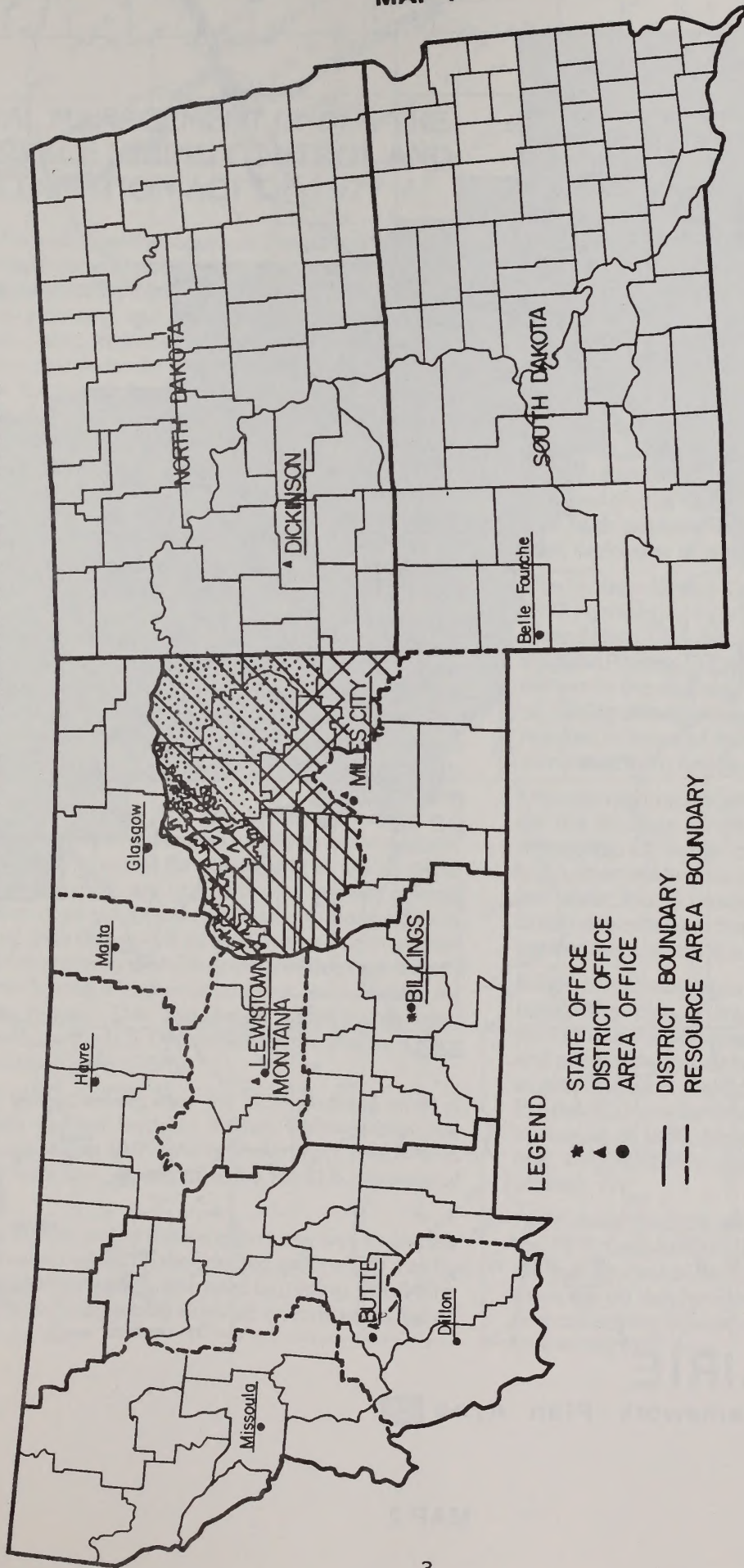


Figure 1

BLM Planning System Flowchart

GENERAL LOCATION OF BIG DRY RESOURCE AREA AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN AREAS



LEGEND

- ★ STATE OFFICE
- ▲ DISTRICT OFFICE
- AREA OFFICE
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- RESOURCE AREA BOUNDARY

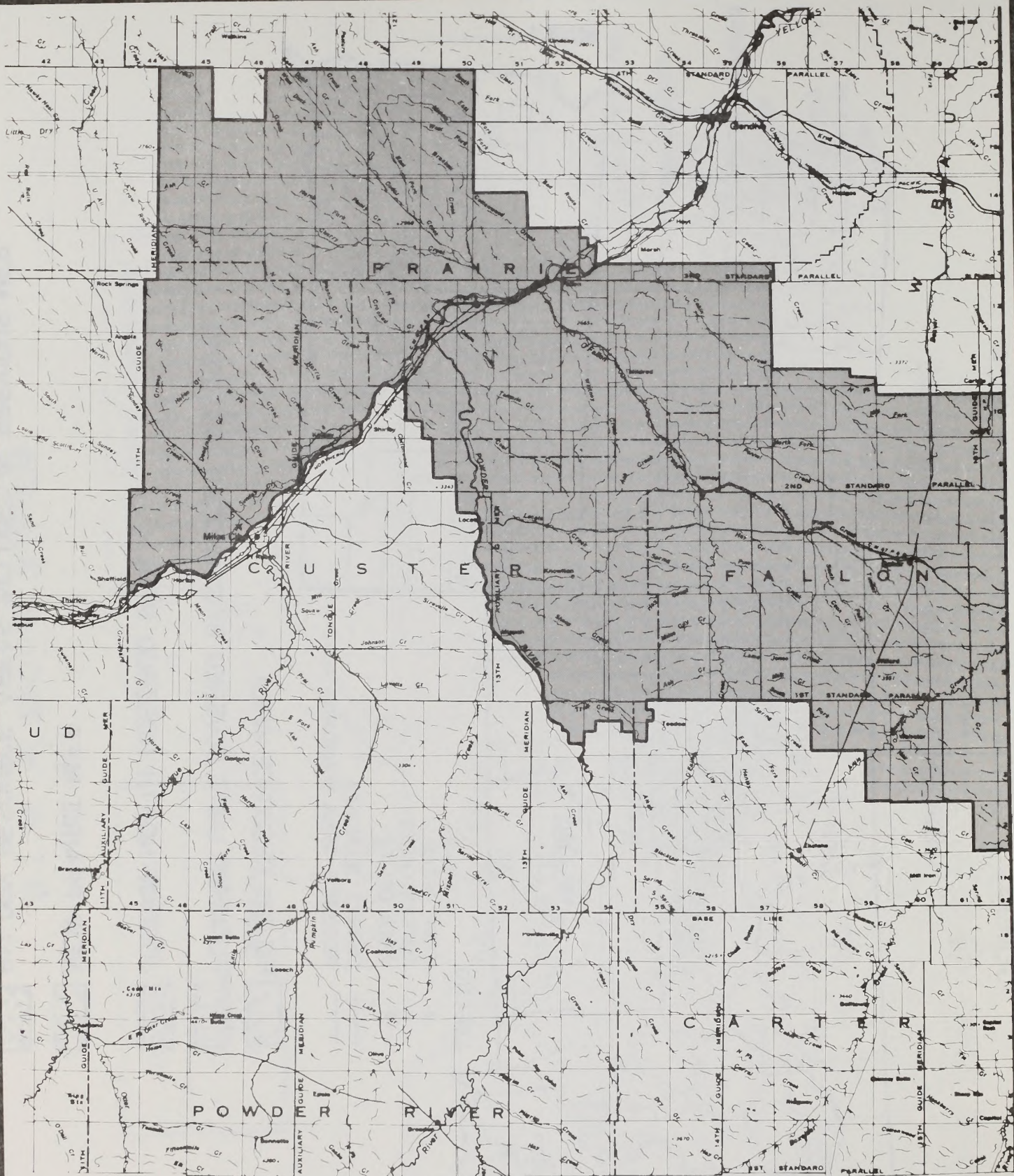
BIG DRY RESOURCE AREA

PLANNING UNITS COVERED BY REDWATER MFP (1979)

JORDAN-NORTH ROSEBUD MFP

NEW PRAIRIE MFP

BIG DRY RESOURCE AREAS INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS MFP



NEW PRAIRIE
Management Framework Plan Area

COAL MANAGEMENT UNDER THE SURFACE MINING CONTROL AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 1977

The Federal Coal Management Program provides for increased general public and state government input and review during the land use planning, coal program activity planning, and environmental assessment processes. Also included is consultation with surface owners over federally reserved coal considering their views. Copies of the Final Environmental Statement which discussed the selected program, alternative programs, and the impact of each are on file in local county libraries and are also available from the BLM District Office, free of charge. Also available at the same locations is the Secretarial Issue Document which includes the Secretary's decisions regarding each phase of the selected program and the July 19, 1979, final rulemaking which describes the details of the coal management program. The federally owned or reserved coal in the Miles City District is predominately under non-federally owned surface. Section 522 and 523 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) together with the Secretary of Interior's decisions and Bureau of Land Management Rulemaking of July 19, 1979, require that federally owned coal resources be subject to land use planning through a four step "screening" process. The plan identifies areas acceptable for further consideration (or which are acceptable pending further study) for coal leasing as well as identifying areas which are unsuitable for surface mining. The plan does not include a decision to lease any area for coal. This decision, if needed, will be accomplished at activity planning time. The plan also does not directly result in formal designation of areas as unsuitable for surface mining. This designation authority has been delegated to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining (OSM).

In the first screening step, the BLM planning effort is directed to coal fields in Known Recoverable Coal Resource Areas (KRCRA) or Preliminary KRCRAs in some instances, as identified by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The next step of the planning process was to identify key resource values on the selected areas which may be adversely impacted or destroyed by mining. The Secretary's final "unsuitability criteria" encompass a broad

range of these values or concerns which must be addressed. (See Section II.B.1.) Some of these concerns are based on federal or state laws dealing with threatened or endangered plant or animal species, water and air quality, historic sites, and specially designated federal lands (i.e., national parks, monuments). Other criteria are based on Presidential Executive Orders dealing (for example) with floodplains. There are also criteria to protect alluvial valleys, rights-of-way, occupied buildings, and designated special use areas. Exceptions to the criteria may be applied where mitigating measures may protect values and still allow mining.

During the multiple-use analysis process (third screen), additional resource values or concerns not covered by the unsuitability criteria may further restrict or eliminate portions of coal fields. An example would be an area with high potential for development as a recreation area, or an area of critical environmental concern.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 provides the fourth screen through surface owner consultation. (See Section II.B.1, "Surface Owner Consultation Process.") Certified letters were sent to surface owners in the planning areas to determine their views on mining of federal coal under their land. This process resulted in some of the coal in certain deposits being eliminated from further consideration for leasing.

The coal recommendations in this document summarize the findings of the preceding processes. Areas acceptable for further consideration for leasing pending further study have been identified. Also identified are areas found unsuitable for surface mining and briefly described are the impacts on the economy, the environment, and the supply of coal.

Public participation has been an integral part of developing this plan. Public meetings have been held throughout the planning process to explain each step and present the information at hand. Issues considered in planning were mailed to approximately 2,500 (New Prairie), 850 (Jordan-North Rosebud) interested parties in August of 1980. Interagency coordination with federal, state, and local agencies has also been accomplished.

Agricultural impacts are addressed to some extent in the MFP, (see Section II.B.1), but the total impact on agriculture cannot be assessed until activity planning, since we do not have a coal leasing target (tons) or proposals from operators with specified end-uses for coal in this MFP Area.

THE NEW SPAIN
AND
THE NEW WORLD

The first part of the book is devoted to a description of the country and its people. The author gives a detailed account of the geography, climate, and natural resources of the region. He also describes the customs and habits of the inhabitants, and the progress of civilization in the country. The second part of the book is a history of the country, from the time of its discovery to the present. The author traces the course of the Spanish conquest, and the establishment of the colonies. He also describes the various wars and revolutions which have taken place in the country, and the progress of the struggle for independence. The third part of the book is a description of the present state of the country, and the prospects for the future. The author gives a detailed account of the political, social, and economic conditions of the country, and the progress of civilization. He also describes the various reforms which have been introduced, and the progress of the struggle for independence.

The book is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with numerous maps and diagrams. It is a valuable work for anyone interested in the history and geography of the region. The author's knowledge of the country and its people is evident throughout the book, and his descriptions are both accurate and interesting. The book is a must-read for anyone who wants to learn more about the New Spain and the New World.

NEW SPAIN
AND
THE NEW WORLD

SECTION II

MULTIPLE USE RECOMMENDATIONS

Following is the presentation of the multiple use objectives, recommendations, and rationale for use and protection of each of the public resources managed by the Bureau of Land Management on public land in the New Prairie Resource Area.

LANDS

Land ownership in the New Prairie Planning Area consists of a mixture of private, state and federal lands. Federal lands constitute some 23.4 percent of the surface ownership, while federal mineral ownership accounts for 44.9 percent of the planning area. Following Tables II. A-1 and II. A-2 summarize the land and minerals ownership status in the MFP areas.

**TABLE II.A-1
LAND SURFACE OWNERSHIP**

	ACREAGE	% OF TOTAL ACREAGE
Public Land	709,150	23.4%
Private and State	2,323,220	76.6%
TOTAL	3,032,370	100.0%

**TABLE II.A-2
MINERALS OWNERSHIP**

	ACREAGE	% OF TOTAL ACREAGE
Public Land	1,361,580*	44.9%
Private and State	1,670,790	55.1%
TOTAL	3,032,370	100.0%

*Acreage shown is for any minerals (all or fractional interest) owned by the United States.

Multiple Use Recommendation: L-1.1

Through interdisciplinary involvement, establish retention and disposal areas within the Planning Unit. Criteria for establishing these areas should focus on manageability, significance and multiplicity of resource values and accessibility to the user public.

Attempt to consolidate public lands, and/or minerals, through exchange. Aggregation of public resources within the planning area should be the first priority. If this first approach is not achievable, use of scattered tracts as trading stock for aggregation of public lands elsewhere within the state should be attempted. After reasonable attempts to consolidate these scattered lands become unfeasible, proceed to disposal.

Rationale:

Since the public surface in the planning area comprises only 23.4% of the land area, the fragmented ownership pattern precludes a multiple use resource management program which is efficient, cost effective and beneficial to public use and enjoyment. Therefore, it is advisable that a land adjustment program be initiated to correct this situation. The same management rationale applies to minerals exchange (see minerals objective M-1).

Objective: 2

Issue Right-of-Ways (R/W's) on public lands to qualified applicants who can show valid justification for the R/W and where an acceptable minimum of environmental deterioration can be expected. Right-of-ways should be restricted as much as possible to existing right-of-way corridors (i.e., major transportation routes).

Multiple Use Recommendation: L-2.1

Provide for land use allocation and R/W grants to accommodate R/W use needs which (1) stand the test of the particular R/W law and regulation and (2) the test of FLPMA and the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969 (NEPA) as they guide individual use management in association with other resource, social and economic impacts present in the public lands or broader planning areas involved.

Rationale:

It is Bureau policy to promptly respond to qualifying R/W use proponents with a proper management assessment; and to grant R/W, with as few restrictions as possible, when the R/W meets the criteria of law regulation and policy.

Objective: 3

Review withdrawal application and existing withdrawals to determine if they should be modified, extended or revoked in accordance with the provisions and limitations of Section 204 of FLPMA.

Multiple Use Recommendation: L-3.1

Continue withdrawal review. Include BLM withdrawals into the planning system immediately. Begin discussions with other agencies to insure that all withdrawals are reviewed by 1991 as required by FLPMA. To the maximum extent possible, bring all withdrawal review scheduling into phase with that of other multiple use management being addressed through BLM's land use planning process.

Rationale:

Many withdrawals no longer serve their intended purpose. A review of all withdrawals would determine whether they should be modified, extended or revoked. Public lands freed from the segregative effect of withdrawal would be available to fulfill multiple use objectives.

Objective: 4

Abate existing and prevent future unauthorized use on the public lands to help ensure that the public lands are managed to best meet the present and future needs of the American public.

Multiple Use Recommendation: L-4.1

Resolve known or suspected unauthorized uses in an expeditious manner. Unauthorized uses must be: (1) terminated and the lands restored/rehabilitated or, (2) legalized thru lease, permit, or other appropriate authority.

Rationale:

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs that the public lands be managed in a manner which will best meet the needs of the public on the basis of sustained yield and multiple use. A scattered public land pattern in eastern Montana which is intermixed with private lands has resulted in the frequent and unauthorized use of public land for agriculture, utility systems, roads, structures, etc. The management of this type of ownership pattern has been and continues to be increasingly difficult for BLM in that unauthorized uses interfere with the legitimate use and value of the public lands. As public awareness and competing demands for the use of public land resources continue to increase, an effective program to facilitate lawful use, and sharply reduce unlawful use must be implemented. However, proper stewardship and the Bureau's good neighbor policy require that such a program be conducted without intimidation or animosity towards any party involved in the abatement of an unauthorized use.

Objective: 5

Accommodate the needs of local communities, state and federal agencies or other interested parties desiring the use of public lands for urban-suburban expansion, townsites, energy generation plants, industrial trade or

manufacturing sites or other intensive use or public purpose needs.

Note: The Miles City District has received no requests from the local communities within the planning area for the uses specified above.

Multiple Use Recommendation: L-5.1

Provide public lands to accommodate the needs of local communities, state and federal agencies and other interested parties for urban-suburban, residential, commercial and industrial expansion, townsites, energy generation plants, industrial trade or manufacturing sites, or other intensive use or public purpose needs.

Rationale:

As a good neighbor and as the steward of the public lands, BLM must charter its public land management policy to insure that community and other public purpose needs are met. Where BLM lands exist in close proximity to local communities, the Bureau must cooperate closely with local or other agency representatives to achieve the highest and best use of those lands. BLM must be especially sensitive and responsive to demands for public lands to be used for industry, energy development, trade or manufacturing sites or other human or resource intensive purposes when such uses may contribute significantly to the overall social and economic well being of a community and its people.

Objective: 6

Subject to management directions, guidelines and policies to be established, assess the development feasibility of all public land which has potential for agricultural use. See Maps 3,4, and 5. All necessary disciplines should be utilized to determine feasibility and methods to be used for development.

Multiple Use Recommendation: L-6.1

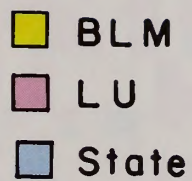
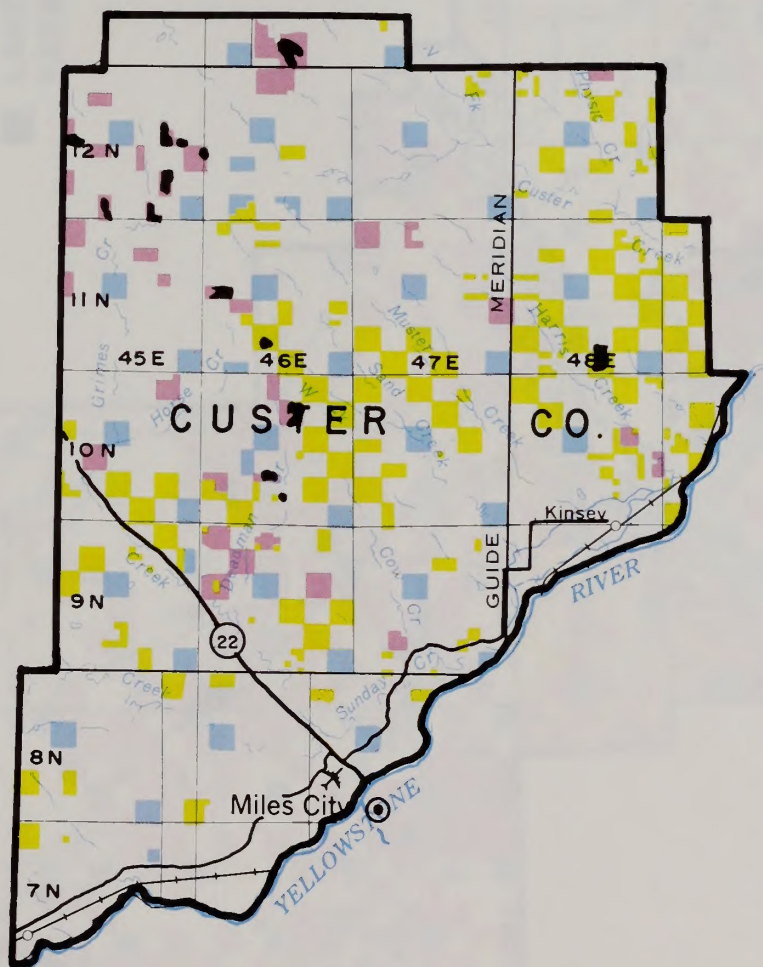
That BLM management provide the necessary directives, guidance and policies to enable agricultural use of public lands by lease or disposal.

That agricultural use by lease or disposal be determined by land status, land ownership pattern and economic feasibility. Leasing should be considered as the first alternative.

That prior to conversion of land for agricultural use, an appropriate team of qualified resource specialists assess the subject lands to determine economic feasibility, optimum crops to be grown, and optimum farming methods to be used.

■ LAND OWNERSHIP AND POTENTIAL
FARMLANDS (6.1)

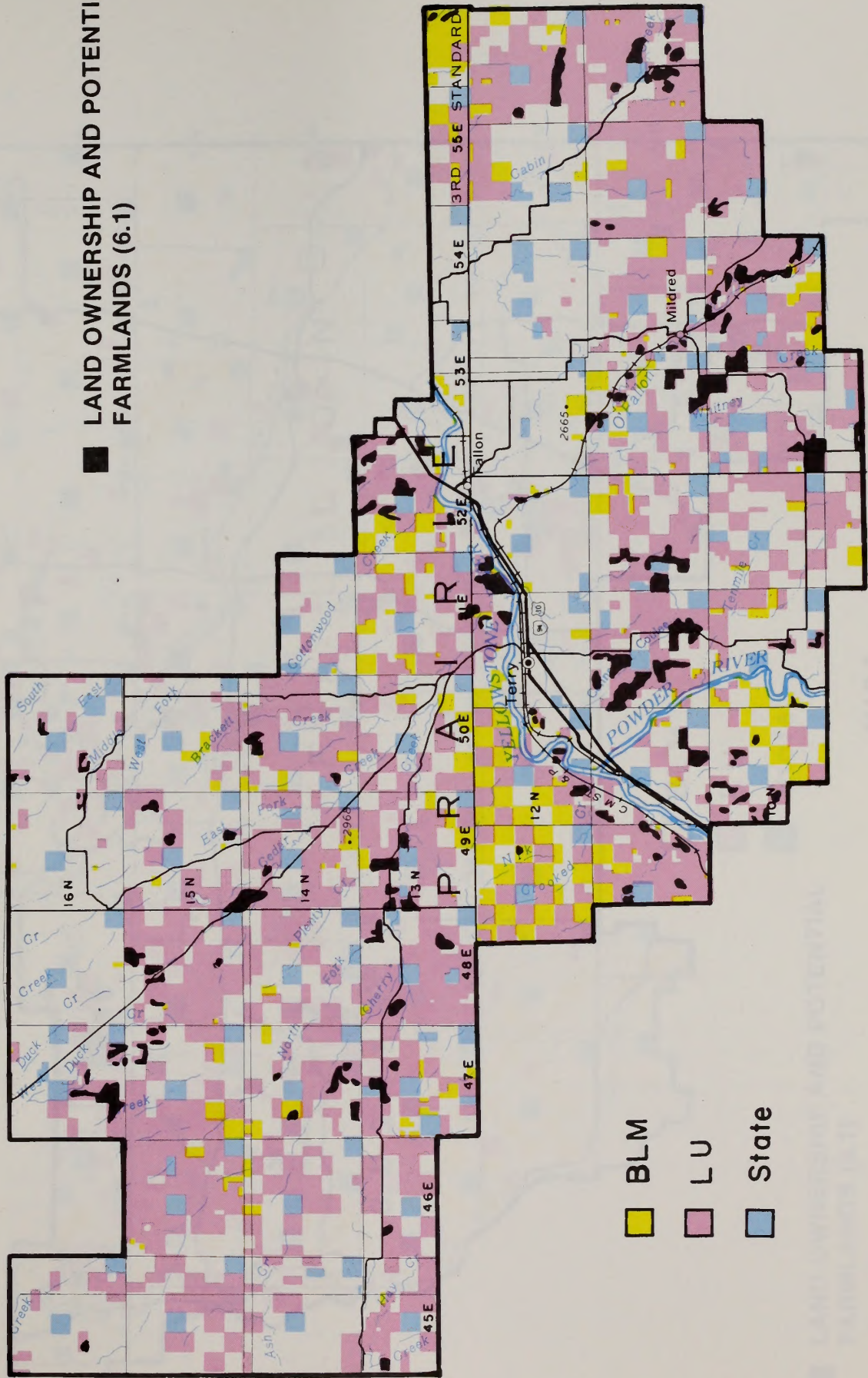
KINSEY
PLANNING UNIT



MAP 3

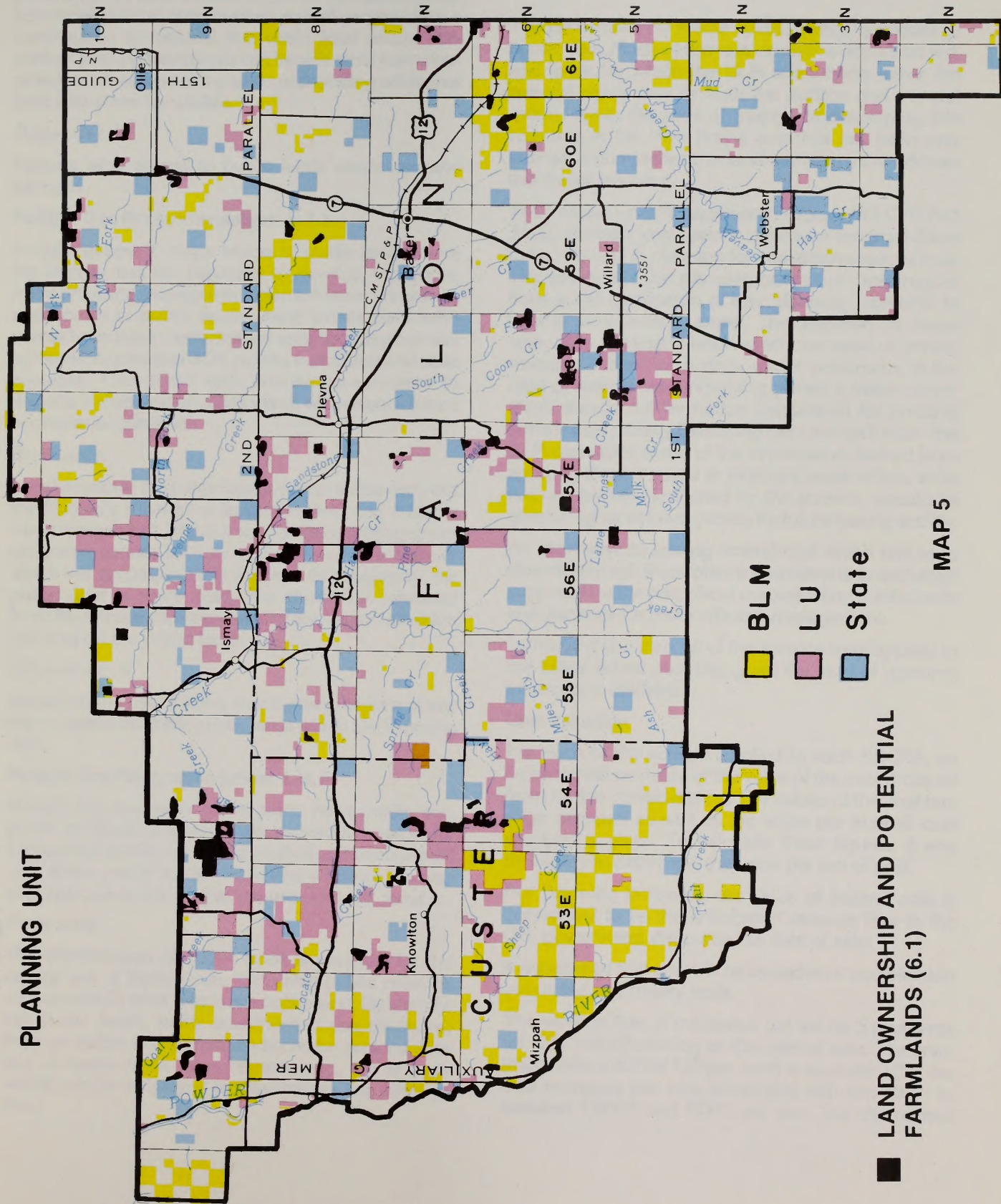
NORTH & SOUTH PRAIRIE PLANNING UNITS

LAND OWNERSHIP AND POTENTIAL FARMLANDS (6.1)



MAP 4

BAKER PLANNING UNIT



LAND OWNERSHIP AND POTENTIAL
FARMLANDS (6.1)

Rationale:

Farming of public lands is authorized within the provisions of FLPMA and is a use which can be economically beneficial to local communities as well as providing a contribution to national and world food needs. Prescribed farming treatments can benefit other resources as well, such as livestock grazing or providing additional food and cover for wildlife.

Objective: 7

Acquire legal access to public lands where demand warrants.

Multiple Use Recommendation: L-7.1

Acquire access to major blocks of public lands where the Bureau has the capability to develop and implement resource management plans. Assure fire access and access to public lands where substantial investments have been made. Initiate reciprocal right-of-way agreements between BLM, private individuals and state agencies. Coordinate with county governments to develop transportation plans which will enhance future access to public lands.

Rationale:

Legal access to the public lands is essential to carry out the Bureau's mission of sustained yield and multiple use management. Without such access, management programs cannot be fully implemented in a manner which will accomplish this mission. Subsequently, the public (and in some cases, the Bureau) is restricted from the full use and enjoyment of the resources which occur upon the public lands.

Objective: 8

Identify by the use of signs, maps, news media and any other means available public lands within the Planning Area.

Multiple Use Recommendation: L-8.1

Identify thru the use of maps, signs, news media, etc., public lands which have significant resource values for widespread public use. Additionally, the Bureau should post those public lands which have a history of unauthorized uses to insure that the use does not recur.

Rationale:

The identification of public lands is essential for the orderly use of those lands. The using public must be able to identify what is or is not public land. By identifying public lands, many unauthorized use situations, both on public and private lands can be avoided. The use of maps, signs, news releases, etc., are all tools which can be employed to disseminate this information.

MINERALS

Coal

The New Prairie MFP area contains large quantities of lignite coal. Much of this coal resource occurs on federal lands for which the BLM administers either the mineral rights only or both the surface and mineral estate. While the level of interest in developing this resource in the New Prairie area has not been very intense, a comprehensive land use plan must address this major resource.

The Federal Coal Management Program (43 CFR Part 3400) contains very specific directions for procedures to be followed in planning for and leasing federal coal. The essence of the planning portion of these regulations is the application of four planning "screens" to federal coal-bearing areas. The purpose of these screens is to identify lands which, because of certain resource values (or surface owner preference in the case of federal coal underlying private surface ownership), should not be further considered for possible surface coal mining. Extending this concept further, the BLM can utilize some of the information derived from applying these screens to highlight areas which, while not completely eliminated by the screens, should be given a higher or lower priority for future leasing activity.

An alternative to leasing federal coal which has been cleared through these planning screens is to exchange such coal for the purpose of consolidating public lands and minerals for more efficient management.

In this land use plan, all of the screens were applied to the fullest extent possible, given the level of resource information available.

Coal Valuation

For each of the screens applied to each KRCRA, an estimate will be made of the value of the coal dropped from further consideration. The values of the coal tonnage dropped as well as the value per acre of coal dropped is given. To calculate these figures, it was necessary to determine the value per ton of coal.

For planning purposes, the value of federal coal is considered to be the anticipated revenue flow to the U.S. government discounted to date of sale.

It is assumed that coal will be leased on a combination bonus bid and royalty basis.

The revenue flow of the bonus bid will be 5 payments (of 20% yearly) starting at the date of sale. The minimum bonus bid (of \$25 per acre) is equivalent (for the coal tonnages per acre associated with this MFP) to between \$.0007 and \$.003 per ton. The discounted

value of 5 payments would be between \$.0004 and \$.002 per ton.¹ If a recent record bonus bid² is scaled on tonnage per acre and a BTU basis to the coal associated with this MFP, the discounted bonus bid is \$.07084 per ton.

Royalties are assumed to be 12.5% of mine site value of \$6.40 per ton. The revenues associated with the royalty payments occur from the eighth year after a sale yearly through the forty-eighth year. The discounted revenues associated with the royalty payments is \$.09124 per ton.

Therefore, the value of federal coal is approximately \$.093 per ton if the minimum bonus bid is received and \$.16208 per ton if a bonus bid comparable to the recent record bid is received. The value of coal used in subsequent calculations will be \$.16208 per ton, which is derived from the record bid. The valuation established from the minimum bid is approximately 58% of the \$.16208 per ton value.

Note that the application of coal values derived from the sale of a tract to scattered coal acreages throughout a KRCRA may seriously overstate coal values.

High or Moderate Coal Development Potential

High or Moderate coal potential designation by the U.S. Geological Survey has not yet been completed in the New Prairie MFP area. However, based upon the previous known recoverable coal resource area (KRCRA) designation, information in the literature, information provided by industry, and in accordance with 43 CFR 3420.2-3 (b) (3), these areas are considered to be moderate in coal development potential. Areas studied were those delineated by the previously defined Known Recoverable Coal Resource Areas (KRCRAs). Map 6 shows the locations of these KRCRAs in the New Prairie Area. Table II.B-1 summarizes the federal and nonfederal ownership pattern in the KRCRAs.

Surface Owner Consultation

Surface owners over federal coal were sent certified letters explaining the Bureau planning process, the need for surface owner consultation and a brief summary of how surface owner responses will be used. Each letter was "unique" in that it only asked for views on those lands owned by that particular surface owner.

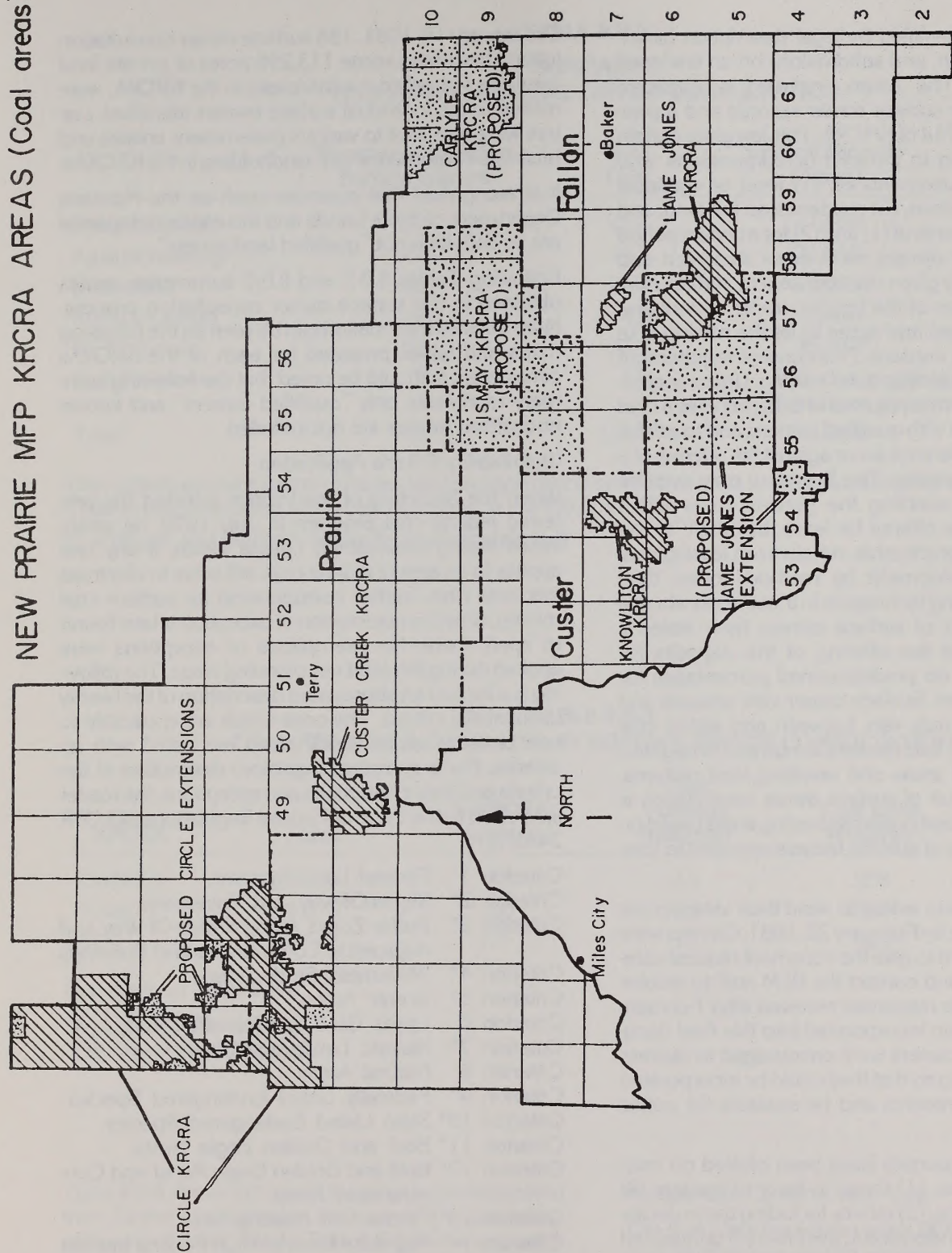
**TABLE II.B-1
OWNERSHIP BY KRCRA**

KRCRA Areas	SURFACE OWNERSHIP			SUBSURFACE OWNERSHIP			
	Total KRCRA Surface Acres	Total BLM Surface Acres	Percent Federal of KRCRA	Total State/Private Surface Acres	Total Federal Subsurface Acres	Percent Federal of KRCRA	Total Non-Federal Subsurface Acres
Lame Jones	162,155	18,013	11.1	144,142	32,003	19.7	130,152
Ismay	163,800	29,792	18.2	134,008	78,600	48.0	85,200
Knowlton	20,125	5,887	29.3	14,238	7,760	38.6	12,365
Carlyle (preliminary)	65,599	804	1.2	64,796	24,600	37.5	41,000
Custer Creek	19,215	12,661	65.9	6,554	13,901	72.3	5,314
Circle (SW Circle)	160,800	32,358	20.1	128,442	73,500	45.7	87,300
All KRCRAs			16.8			38.9	
Total MFP Area (Acres)	591,695	99,515		492,180	230,364		361,331

¹A 10% discount rate will be used in all present value calculations in this MFP. Discounting means normalizing amounts in the future to the date of sale.

²"Coal Week," May 11, 1981, pg. 7.

NEW PRAIRIE MFP KRCRA AREAS (Coal areas)



MAP 6

The lands were identified by legal description (township, range, section, and subdivision) on an enclosed response form. The letters included a duplicate response form for surface owner records and a photocopy of Section 714 of SMCRA. This law gives certain types of protection to persons or corporations who meet specific requirements of: (1) legal or equitable title to the land surface, (2) residence on the land, and (3) meet requirements of (1) and (2) for a certain period of time. If surface owners meet these standards and have not previously given their consent to surface mining, the Department of the Interior, under current law, cannot issue a lease and agree to let the mining take place without their consent. This consent requirement does not apply to underground mining. Under section 714, the Department is required when it prepares a land use plan to consult with qualified owners, and to ask for a statement of preference for or against the offering of a lease for surface mining. The Secretary may exercise his discretion in selecting the general areas within which coal may be offered for lease, but shall "to the maximum extent practicable, refrain from leasing coal deposits for development by methods other than underground mining techniques in those areas where a significant number of surface owners have stated a preference against the offering of the deposits for lease." There are no predetermined percentages for significant numbers. Surface owner view analysis and related decisions may vary between and within coal field "areas" due to such factors as number of negative responses, size of areas and resulting land patterns. The important result of surface owner consultation is the delineation of least preferred leasing areas based on significant patterns of surface owners opposed to leasing.

Surface owners were asked to send their views to the BLM District Office by February 20, 1981. Owners were and are encouraged to give the comment request careful consideration and contact the BLM staff to resolve any questions. Late responses received after February 20, 1981, have been incorporated into this final document. All surface owners were encouraged to express their views in writing so that they could be incorporated into the planning records and be available for public review.

Surface owner responses have been plotted on map overlays to indicate: (1) those in favor of leasing, (2) those against leasing, (3) others, including those declining to respond or undecided at this time, (4) unqualified owners, and (5) existing surface agreements between a private surface owner and a lessee.

The status of "qualified surface owners" was not formally adjudicated by the BLM. Each surface owner of record was asked to qualify or disqualify himself based on information supplied in the surface owner consultation letter which each surface owner received.

On January 19, 1981, 184 surface owner consultation letters describing some 113,296 acres of private land overlying federal coal withdrawals in the KRCRA, were mailed to the individual surface owners identified. Letters were also sent to various government entities and business corporations with landholding in the KRCRA.

It is recognized that agencies such as the Montana Department of State Lands and insurance companies are by definition not "qualified landowners".

Following Tables II.B-2 and II.B-3 summarize results obtained in the surface owner consultation process. More detailed information can be seen on the following maps and tables prepared for each of the KRCRA's considered. It should be noted that the following summary represents only "qualified owners" and known unqualified owners are not included

Unsuitability Criteria Application

When the Secretary of the Interior selected the preferred federal coal program in July 1979, he established twenty unsuitability criteria which, if any one applies to an area of federal coal, will serve to eliminate that area from further consideration for surface coal mining, unless an exemption or exception is later found to apply there. No exemptions or exceptions were applied during this land use planning stage. The following is a list and an abbreviated description of the twenty unsuitability criteria. The ones which are applicable to one or more of the study areas are noted with an asterisk. For a complete regulatory description of the criteria and their exemptions and exceptions, the reader is referred to the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 3461.1).

- Criterion 1 Federal Land Systems
- Criterion 2* Rights-Of-Way and Easements
- Criterion 3* Buffer Zones Along Rights-Of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings
- Criterion 4* Wilderness Study Areas
- Criterion 5* Scenic Areas
- Criterion 6 Lands Used for Scientific Study
- Criterion 7* Historic Lands and Sites
- Criterion 8 Natural Areas
- Criterion 9* Federally Listed Endangered Species
- Criterion 10* State Listed Endangered Species
- Criterion 11* Bald and Golden Eagle Nests
- Criterion 12* Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas
- Criterion 13* Falcon Cliff Nesting Sites
- Criterion 14* Migratory Birds of High Federal Interest
- Criterion 15* State Resident Fish and Wildlife
- Criterion 16* Floodplains
- Criterion 17 Municipal Watersheds
- Criterion 18 National Resource Waters
- Criterion 19* Alluvial Valley Floors
- Criterion 20 State Proposed Criteria

TABLE II.B-2
SUMMARY
NEW PRAIRIE SURFACE OWNER CONSULTATION

	Number of Qualified Surface Owners	% of Total	Federal Minerals (Acres)	% of Total
Favor Leasing	39	21.2	27,488	24.3
Against Leasing	27	14.7	21,548	19.0
Undecided	48	26.1	25,998	22.9
Surface Leased	9	4.9	2,480	2.2
No Response	59	32.1	35,782	31.6
Split Preference	3	1.6	Included in appropriate column (i.e., favor, oppose, etc.)	
Total	185 ¹	100.6	113,296 ²	100

¹One individual had a parcel of leased land and one parcel on which he was undecided, therefore was counted twice.

²Total acreage included all parcels described in the KRCRA.

All acreages and percents are for federal minerals only.

TABLE II.B-3
COAL RESOURCE ELIMINATED BY SURFACE OWNER CONSULTATION

KRCRA	Acres	% KRCRA Acreage	Coal Tonnage (millions)	Coal Value \$(000's) ²	Coal Value \$/Acre ²
Circle SW	5,239	3.3	2.2	358	2,070
Ismay	4,878	3.0	1.3	207	1,418
All	10,117	1.7 ¹	3.5	565	1,756

Derived from Table II.B-4

¹% of all 6 KRCRAs

²Calculated at 16.208¢/ton

Table II.B-4 shows estimated tons and acres eliminated from further consideration because of the application of the unsuitability criteria. Table II.B-5 shows a value for coal eliminated by each unsuitability criterion. Some criteria could not be fully applied because of a lack of site-specific information. It is possible that further areas and tonnages will be eliminated as additional inventory and resource data becomes available. Application of the unsuitability criteria to each of the KRCRAs is discussed in detail later in this document.

Multiple-Use Conflicts With Coal

The final planning screen is the BLM's internally generated multiple-use conflict analysis. This process identifies important surface or subsurface resource values which conflict with potential coal surface mining. This process focuses mainly on long-term disruption or permanent loss of these key values. It is obvious that almost every surface value could be temporarily disturbed by surface mining. The following have been identified as key multiple-use resource values, the loss

TABLE II.B-4
ACREAGES AND TONS OF FEDERAL COAL ELIMINATED BY EACH UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA

Criterion	Carlyle KRCRA	Circle SW KRCRA	Custer Creek KRCRA	Ismay KRCRA	Knowlton KRCRA	Lame Jones KRCRA
1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2	21 acres 0.2 M.T.*	312 acres 4.0 M.T.	15 acres 0.4 M.T.	403 acres 3.6 M.T.*	66 acres 2.3 M.T.	156 acres 2.4 M.T.*
3	2029 acres 16.3 M.T.*	1131.5 acres 14.5 M.T.	NA	2398.5 acres 21.0 M.T.*	24.5 acres 0.8 M.T.	123.5 acres 1.9 M.T.*
4	NA	NA	9005 acres 226.9 M.T.	NA	NA	NA
5	NA	NA	9165 acres 230.9 M.T.	NA	NA	NA
6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7	(³)	(³)		(³)	(³)	(³)
8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
9	(³)	(³)	(⁴)	(³)	(³)	(³)
10	(³)	(³)	NA	(³)	(³)	(³)
11	(³)	(³)	NA	(³)	(³)	(³)
12	(³)	(³)	NA	(³)	(³)	(³)
13	(³)	(³)	NA	(³)	(³)	(³)
14	(³)	(³)	(⁵)	(³)	(³)	(³)
15	(³)	(³)	(⁵)	2,180 acres 19.1 M.T.*	(³)	(³)
16 ¹	NA	NA	NA	11 miles	NA	1.5 miles
17	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
18	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
19 ²	6.5 miles	21 miles	NA	15 miles	NA	6.5 miles
20	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total ⁶	2050.5 acres 16.5 M.T.*	1443.5 acres 18.5 M.T.	9180 acres 231.3 M.T.	4981 acres 43.7 M.T.*	90.5 acres 3.1 M.T.	279.5 acres 4.3 M.T.*

NA—Not Applicable

¹No area excluded pending outcome of the "Flannery Decision".

²No areas excluded until final determination is made of extent of the AVF. Field examination required.

³Not finally applied due to lack of site specific inventory. ⁴Pending endangered species clearance from Fish and Wildlife Service.

⁵Pending resolution of black-tailed prairie dog control proposal WL-4.6.

⁶In some instances, two or more criteria eliminated the same area. This was recognized and accounted for in the total acreage found unsuitable.

*Estimates speculative because of a lack of coal data. Million Tons (M.T.)

TABLE II.B-5
VALUE OF COAL ELIMINATED BY EACH UNSUITABILITY CRITERION

Criterion	Carlyle KRCRA		Circle SW KRCRA		Custer Creek KRCRA		Ismay KRCRA		Knowlton KRCRA		Lame Jones KRCRA	
	\$(000's)	\$/Acre	\$(000's)	\$/Acre	\$(000's)	\$/Acre	\$(000's)	\$/Acre	\$(000's)	\$/Acre	\$(000's)	\$/Acre
2	32	1,543	648	2,078	65	4,322	583	1,448	373	5,648	389	2,493
3	2,642	1,302	2,350	2,077	—	—	3,403	1,419	130	5,293	308	2,493
4					36,776	4,094						
5					37,424	4,083						
15							3,096	1,420				
All	2,674	1,305	2,998	2,077	37,489 ¹	4,083	7,083	1,422	502	5,552	697	2,493

¹Sum of Criteria 2 + 5. Criterion #4 included in Criterion #5
Derived from Table II.B-4, using coal value of 16.208¢/ton.

of which may require that leasing of the federal coal underlying them be foregone. A general analysis of agriculture values in the coal areas is included in Section 2. B. 1. f.

Floodplains, alluvial valley bottoms, and timber resource values have been identified as conflicting with possible coal development in the KRCRA's in the New Prairie MFP area. Other resources have identified potential reclamation problems as future multiple-use conflicts. In some instances more than one resource value will overlap. An example of this would be where floodplains, riparian and alluvial valley bottoms also overlap with turkey habitat underlain by recoverable coal. The resources identified have special values or special concerns which have been expressed by various agencies or special interests. In response to public desire to protect or maintain the resources which lie over federal coal, it is recommended that these areas not be carried forward for further consideration for leasing, because of unique values or special management problems, as shown in the following tables and KRCRA maps.

Reclamation Problems

Within these KRCRA's are soils which, if coal were mined, would present potential reclamation problems. These areas consist of approximately 28,500 acres over nearly 480 million tons of coal. Ten soil series which exhibit potential reclamation problems have been identified. The problems consist of shallow soils, droughtiness, excessive rock fragments, steep slopes, susceptibility to compaction, excess clays, chemical makeup or factors inhibiting seedling establishment. Many soils with potential reclamation problems have slopes of 15-70% or more underlain by shale, baked sandstone or clinker which would present additional

reclamation problems. Conifer and broadleaf trees are present on each of the KRCRA's. Timber amounts to approximately 8,040 acres over 126.1 million tons of coal. The largest timber stands are in the Knowlton KRCRA. State strip mine reclamation laws require that stripmined lands be reclaimed to native vegetation after disturbance. Reclamation of timbered areas, applying the requirement for regeneration under the natural conditions prevailing at the site, severely limits the timbered areas which could be mined with reclamation assured, unless a variance were granted.

Floodplains and Alluvial Valley Bottoms

Each of the KRCRA's has floodplains, riparian habitat or alluvial valley bottoms which, although small in size, contribute significantly to the agricultural productivity and quality of the area. In the New Prairie MFP area there are 101.6 million tons of federal coal located under floodplains and alluvial valley bottoms. Of this total, 58.3 million tons of federal coal are under state or private surface.

Turkey Habitat

The Knowlton KRCRA has the only extensive turkey habitat of the New Prairie KRCRA's. Turkey habitat is heavily dependent upon the timber resource, mainly ponderosa pine, but box elder, ash and other woody species are also valuable. This habitat makes up 3,000 acres over 102.3 million tons of coal. Turkey habitat is considered very important in this area.

Other key multiple-use resource values, including agricultural values, may, at the discretion of the District Manager, be used in the final decision document as additional factors to be used in prioritizing lands carried forward for further consideration for leasing.

Table II.B-6 shows the tonnages and acreages preliminarily dropped from further consideration for multiple use conflict reasons. Table II.B-7 shows the value of the coal resource underlying conflicting resource values.

Table II. B-8 shows the total estimated federal coal resource preliminarily eliminated by the screens applied.

Agricultural Analysis

Public input has indicated that agriculture is of prime importance in the KRCRAs. This is especially a concern where federal minerals underlie private or state surface. Private and state cropland and hay lands over federal coal consist of approximately 23,340 acres which lie over 232 million tons of federal coal. Currently no lands with federal surface have been authorized to be cultivated. Hay cutting has been authorized on a case by case basis, however. All uncultivated lands are

assumed to be suitable for grazing by wildlife and livestock. These lands consist of 116,564 acres over 1,442 million tons of federal coal.

There is a significant volume of coal involved in the current planning areas. Three major coal companies have indicated interest in having the federal coal in the KRCRAs in the Jordan-North Rosebud and New Prairie MFP areas made available for leasing within the next few years.

Coal is a valuable resource. It cannot, however, be surface mined without having some adverse impacts. Surface mining would disturb the existing subsurface hydrologic structures in the mining area. This could have off-site as well as on-site impacts. Down-slope wells and springs, sub-irrigated alluvial valleys and other water-related factors could be adversely affected.

TABLE II.B-6A

SURFACE ACRES AND FEDERAL COAL TONNAGE OR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS ELIMINATED DUE TO MULTIPLE USE CONFLICTS

FEDERAL SURFACE, FEDERAL MINERALS ACRES MILLION TONS OF COAL

KRCRA Area & Average Coal Thickness (ft)	Reclamation Problems ¹	Floodplains and Alluvial Valley Bottoms ²	Timber ³	Turkey Habitat	Total
Lame Jones 8.7	6240 95	340 5.2	1100 16.7	—	7680 116.9
Ismay 5	4080 35.7	1260 11	670 5.9	—	6010 52.6
Knowlton 19.5	1765 60.2	—	1050 35.8	1760 60	4585 156
Carlyle 6.6	460 3.7	—	330 2.7	—	790 6.4
Custer 14.4	6292 158.6	760 19.2	—	—	7052 177.8
Circle S.W. 7.3	3440 43.9	620 7.9	840 10.7	—	4900 62.5
Total	22,277 397.1	2,980 43.3	3,990 71.8	1,760 60	31,007 572.2

¹Reclamation problems exist which make assured reclamation of lands difficult.

²These areas consist of alluvial valley bottoms, riparian habitat and floodplains.

³Dropped because of potential reclamation problems.

TABLE II.B-6B

**SURFACE ACRES AND FEDERAL COAL TONNAGE OR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS
ELIMINATED DUE TO MULTIPLE USE CONFLICTS**

STATE/PRIVATE SURFACE, FEDERAL MINERALS

**ACRES
MILLION TONS OF COAL**

KRCRA Area & Average Coal Thickness (ft)	Reclamation Problems¹	Floodplains and Alluvial Valley Bottoms²	Timber²	Turkey Habitat	Total
Lame Jones	2760	260	260	—	3280
8.7	42	4	4		50.0
Ismay	990	2780	1080	—	4850
5	8.7	24.3	9.5		42.5
Knowlton	240	—	480	1240	1960
19.5	8.2		16.4	42.3	66.9
Carlyle	1500	340	870	—	2710
4.6	12	2.7	7		21.7
Custer	40	160	—	—	200
14.4	1	4			5
Circle S.W.	760	1820	1360	—	3940
7.3	9.7	23.3	17.4		50.4
Total	6290	5360	4050	1240	16940
	81.6	58.3	54.3	42.3	236.5

¹Reclamation problems exist which make assured reclamation of lands difficult.

²These areas consist of alluvial valley bottoms, riparian habitat and floodplains.

³Dropped because of potential reclamation problems.

Mining can impact ranch operations in several ways. Mining grazing land makes the forage unavailable for a period, at least during the mining phase and until reclamation is accomplished. Mining haylands and croplands reduces the acreage available for winter feed (or cash crop). Obviously a severe reduction of either can adversely affect the balance of the normal year-round operation unless it is compensated for by purchases or other measures. Dust fall-out from coal mining and processing and the increased traffic on rural roads could also adversely affect crop production.

In addition to loss of forage and feed resources, the mining operation could physically interfere with ranch management facilities, e.g. fencing, watering distribution, access roads, livestock movement.

Other impacts on the farming/ranching community must also be considered. The influx of people to the area during coal development can overload the public

service facilities of the community, e.g. schools, law enforcement, social services, etc.

Sparsely populated rural areas and small communities would be expected to change if development involving a large labor force occurs. Local governmental leadership could shift, lifestyle changes of some of the residents could be expected, there would likely be an increased demand for consumer goods, and farm labor costs would increase because of competition for the labor force. Possible beneficial impacts include increased employment opportunities for local farmer/ranchers. Statistics for the counties in this MFP area indicate approximately 12% of the operators work off the farm/ranch for 200 days of the year. In addition, coal lease agreements indicate that surface owners over coal tracts can receive several times the net income they are currently receiving for agricultural products by leasing for coal development. This would of course vary with the individual operation and lease.

TABLE II.B-7A
COAL VALUES UNDER CONFLICTING RESOURCE VALUES

FEDERAL SURFACE/FEDERAL MINERALS

KRCRA	Reclamation Problems		Floodplains and Alluvial		Timber ²		Turkey Habitat	
	\$(Million)	\$/Acre	\$(Million)	\$/Acre	\$(Million)	\$/Acre	\$(Million)	\$/Acre
Lame Jones	15.4	2,467	.9	2,479	2.7	2,460	—	—
Ismay	5.8	1,418	1.8	1,415	1.0	1,427	—	—
Knowlton	9.7	5,528	—	—	5.8	5,526	9.7	5,525
Carlyle	.6	1,304	—	—	.4	1,326	—	—
Custer	25.7	4,085	3.1	4,085	—	—	—	—
Circle S.W.	7.1	2,069	1.3	2,065	1.7	2,064	—	—
All ¹	64.3	2,889	7.0	2,355	11.6	2,917	9.7	5,525

¹\$(million)—may not total due to rounding

²Dropped because of potential reclamation problems.

TABLE II.B-7B
COAL VALUES UNDER CONFLICTING RESOURCE VALUES

STATE AND PRIVATE SURFACE/FEDERAL MINERALS

KRCRA	Reclamation Problems		Floodplains and Alluvial		Timber ²		Turkey Habitat	
	\$(Million)	\$/Acre	\$(Million)	\$/Acre	\$(Million)	\$/Acre	\$(Million)	\$/Acre
Lame Jones	6.8	2,467	.7	2,493	.7	2,493	—	—
Ismay	1.4	1,425	4.0	1,417	1.5	1,426	—	—
Knowlton	1.3	5,537	—	—	2.7	5,537	6.9	5,529
Carlyle	2.0	1,297	.4	1,287	1.2	1,304	—	—
Custer	.2	5,052	.7	4,052	—	—	—	—
Circle S.W.	1.6	2,069	3.8	2,074	2.8	2,074	—	—
All ¹	13.2	2,103	9.5	1,763	8.8	2,173	6.9	5,529

¹\$(million)—may not total due to rounding

²Dropped because of potential reclamation problems.

TABLE II.B-8
TOTAL ESTIMATED FEDERAL COAL RESOURCE ELIMINATED
BY ALL SCREENS (PRELIMINARY)

KRCRA	Unsuitability Criteria	Multiple Use Conflicts	Surface Owner Consultation	Total
Carlyle ¹	2050.0 Ac. 16.5 M.T. ²	3,500 Ac. 28.1 M.T.	0	5,550 Ac. 44.6 M.T.
Circle SW	1443.5 Ac. 18.5 M.T.	8,840 Ac. 112.9 M.T.	5239 Ac. 66.9 M.T.	15,522.5 Ac. 198.3 M.T.
Custer Creek	9180 Ac. 231.3 M.T.	7252 Ac. 182.8 M.T.	0	16,432 Ac. 414.1 M.T.
Ismay ¹	4981.5 Ac. 43.7 M.T.	10,860 Ac. 95.1 M.T.	4878 Ac. 42.7 M.T.	20,719.5 Ac. 181.5 M.T.
Knowlton	90.5 Ac. 3.1 M.T.	6,545 Ac. 222.9 M.T.	0	6,635.5 Ac. 226.0 M.T.
Lame Jones ¹	279.5 Ac. 4.3 M.T.	10,960 Ac. 166.9 M.T.	0	11,239.5 Ac. 171.2 M.T.
Total	18,025.0 Ac. 317.4 M.T.	47,947 Ac. 808.7 M.T.	10,117 Ac. 109.6 M.T.	76,089 Ac. 1,235.7 M.T.

¹Coal Tonnage estimates speculative because of a lack of specific coal data.

²M.T. — Million Tons

NOTE: In some instances, there was an overlap between unsuitability criteria, multiple use conflicts and/or surface owner consultation.

TABLE II.B-9
COMPARISON OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION VALUES
AND COAL VALUES OVER FEDERAL COAL

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION					COAL PRODUCTION		COMPARISON		
Land Type	No. Acres	Annual Net Value (\$/Acre/Year)	Total Annual Net Value (\$)	Total Discounted Value (\$)	Tons/Acre	Discounted Value Per Ton(\$)	Total Discounted Value (\$)	Discounted Value of Coal Necessary to Equal Discounted Ag. Value	Difference in \$
CIRCLE S.W. KRCRA¹									
Irrigated	0	—	—	—	—	0.16208	—	—	—
Nonirrigated	5,300	24	127,200	159,388	12,775	0.16208	10,974,032	.00235	10,814,644
Noncropped	47,150	1.75	82,513	103,393	12,775	0.16208	97,627,470	.00017	97,524,077
CUSTER CREEK KRCRA									
Irrigated	0	—	—	—	—	0.16208	—	—	—
Nonirrigated	0	—	—	—	—	0.16208	—	—	—
Noncropped	2,455	1.75	4,296	5,383	25,200	0.16208	10,027,241	.00009	10,021,858
KNOWLTON KRCRA									
Irrigated	0	—	—	—	—	0.16208	—	—	—
Nonirrigated	280	20	5,600	7,017	34,125	0.16208	1,548,674	.00073	1,541,657
Noncropped	3,345	1.75	5,854	7,335	34,125	0.16208	18,501,128	.00006	18,493,793
LAME JONES KRCRA									
Irrigated	90	45	4,050	5,075	15,225	0.16208	222,090	.00370	217,015
Nonirrigated	490	23	11,270	14,122	15,225	0.16208	1,209,157	.00189	1,195,035
Noncropped	17,745	1.75	31,054	38,912	15,225	0.16208	43,788,769	.00014	43,749,857
CARLYLE KRCRA									
Irrigated	0	—	—	—	—	0.16208	—	—	—
Nonirrigated	7,020	23	161,460	202,317	8,050	0.16208	9,159,303	.00358	8,956,985
Noncropped	13,380	1.75	23,415	29,340	8,050	0.16208	17,457,475	.00027	17,428,135
ISMAV KRCRA									
Irrigated	160	45	7,200	9,022	8,750	0.16208	226,912	.00644	217,890
Nonirrigated	10,000	23	230,000	288,202	8,750	0.16208	14,182,000	.00329	13,893,799
Noncropped	48,510	1.75	84,893	106,375	8,750	0.16208	69,796,882	.00025	68,690,507

¹Includes only that portion of the KRCRA within New Prairie MFP.

NOTE: See preceding discussion for explanation of values portrayed here.

Development of coal can affect net values of agricultural production, gross agricultural sales, and individual farm/ranch operations. Table II.B-9 includes the acreages of various types of agricultural land over federal coal within those portions of KRCRAs acceptable for further consideration for leasing. If a KRCRA were to be mined, the agricultural production currently on the land would be lost for some period of time. To estimate the maximum loss (worst case) of that agricultural production, it is assumed that production would completely cease. Of course, reclamation is often technically and economically feasible and is required under various state and federal laws. The annual net value of agricultural production is assumed to be one-third of the annual gross value of the agricultural production of the land. This is comparable to many sharecropping arrangements. The county average of gross values of crops produced during the years 1974-79 for irrigated and non-irrigated cropland was derived from "Montana Agricultural Statistics."

Noncropped land is assumed to be grazed. The median acres per AUM for public grazing land in the Big Dry Resource Area is 5.38. An AUM is valued at \$9.40¹. This results in an annual net value per acre for noncropped lands of \$1.75.

The total annual net values of agriculture are discounted to the year of coal leasing to allow comparison to discounted coal values.

Coal production values are calculated using methods discussed in Section II.B.1.a.

The comparison columns contain two columns. The "difference" is the total present value of coal minus the total present value of agricultural production. These are all positive, which means that onsite coal values exceed onsite agricultural values. The "discounted value of coal necessary to equal discounted agricultural values" is the total discounted agriculture value divided by the coal tonnage under that agricultural land. Coal would have to sell for this discounted value per ton to just cover agricultural production values foregone. Note that agricultural values are derived from what is actually produced and the coal values are based on potential production. In fact, it may be economically feasible to crop some of the noncropped federal surface land. This would somewhat diminish the figures in the "difference" column.

The net value in agricultural production foregone per acre for each KRCRA is displayed in Table II.B-10.

Mining can affect the gross agricultural sales of counties. Table II.B-11 shows the gross sales attributable to agricultural production over federal coal that would be

TABLE II.B-10
NET VALUE OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION
PER ACRE

KRCRA	\$/Acre
Lame Jones	3.17
Ismay	6.88
Knowlton	3.96
Circle SW	5.01
Custer	2.19
Carlyle	11.36
All	6.40

foregone if the federal coal were mined. The BLM is currently conducting agricultural and economic analyses in both the Fort Union and Powder River coal Areas. These analyses are examining in detail the financial costs and benefits of agricultural use of the land versus surface mining of coal on these lands. In addition, these studies will provide early forecasts of economic and community impacts which would probably follow a Secretarial decision to lease certain areas of federal coal. This information will be available for management's use in arriving at final decisions as to which lands if any, may be most appropriately carried forward for further consideration for leasing. These decisions and an abstract of the economic findings from these above mentioned studies will be made a part of the decision document at the completion of this planning process in 1982.

Until that time, the croplands and haylands over federal coal are considered acceptable for further consideration for leasing. These agricultural values may be used by the District Manager in his final decisionmaking as considerations in designating areas as more or less favorable for future coal leasing.

Minerals Objective: 1

Make available, as funding and manpower permit, adequate federal coal resources for leasing to meet national and regional energy production goals. In addition, federal coal resources in the New Prairie MFP area

¹"Real Estate Market Development" ESS, USDA, 1980

**TABLE II.B-11
GROSS AGRICULTURAL SALES**

KRCRA	IRRIGATED CROPLAND			NONIRRIGATED CROPLAND			NONCROPLAND			Total Gross Receipts	% of Custer, Prairie and Fallon County Gross Agricultural Sales ⁴
	Acres	Gross Receipts Per Acre (\$/Acre) ¹	Subtotal (\$)	Acres	Gross Receipts Per Acre (\$/Acre) ²	Subtotal (\$)	Acres	Gross Receipts Per Acre (\$/Acre) ³	Subtotal (\$)		
Circle SW	0	214.83	0	5,300	71.05	376,565	47,150	4.65	219,099	595,664	1.28
Custer	0	215.80	0	0	60.50	0	2,455	4.65	11,409	11,409	0.02
Knowlton	0	215.80	0	280	60.50	16,940	3,345	4.65	15,544	32,484	0.07
Lame Jones	90	133.32	11,999	490	67.22	32,938	17,745	4.65	82,458	127,395	0.27
Carlyle	0	133.32	0	7,020	67.22	471,884	13,380	4.65	62,175	534,059	1.15
Ismay	160	133.32	21,331	10,000	67.22	672,200	48,510	4.65	225,418	918,949	1.97
All	250	133.32	33,330	23,090	68.02	1,570,527	132,585	4.65	616,103	2,219,960	4.76

¹Includes only that portion of the KRCRA within New Prairie MFP

²Derived from "Agricultural Statistics" for years 1974-1979

³Based on \$300 per cow & 5.38 acres/AUM (E.S.S. - 1981 and "Public and Private Grazing Resources in Montana with Emphasis on Forest Service Administered Grazing" MSU Experiment Station, Research Report 164 1981.

⁴Gross Agricultural Sales for the 3 counties averaged for 1974-1979 is \$46,597,600.

should be screened for availability for use in exchange transactions aimed toward consolidating the public lands and minerals resource. (See Lands Objective 1)

Multiple Use Recommendation: M-1.1

Designate as acceptable for further consideration for leasing or exchange, pending further study in some cases, federal coal in the identified KRCRA's remaining after application of the unsuitability criteria, surface owner consultation and multiple use conflict analysis as shown in Table II.B-12 following and on the KRCRA Maps 7 through 12. Those areas in agricultural production are given low priority for leasing and then considered only if required to meet leasing targets or if needed to complete economic mining units (EMU).

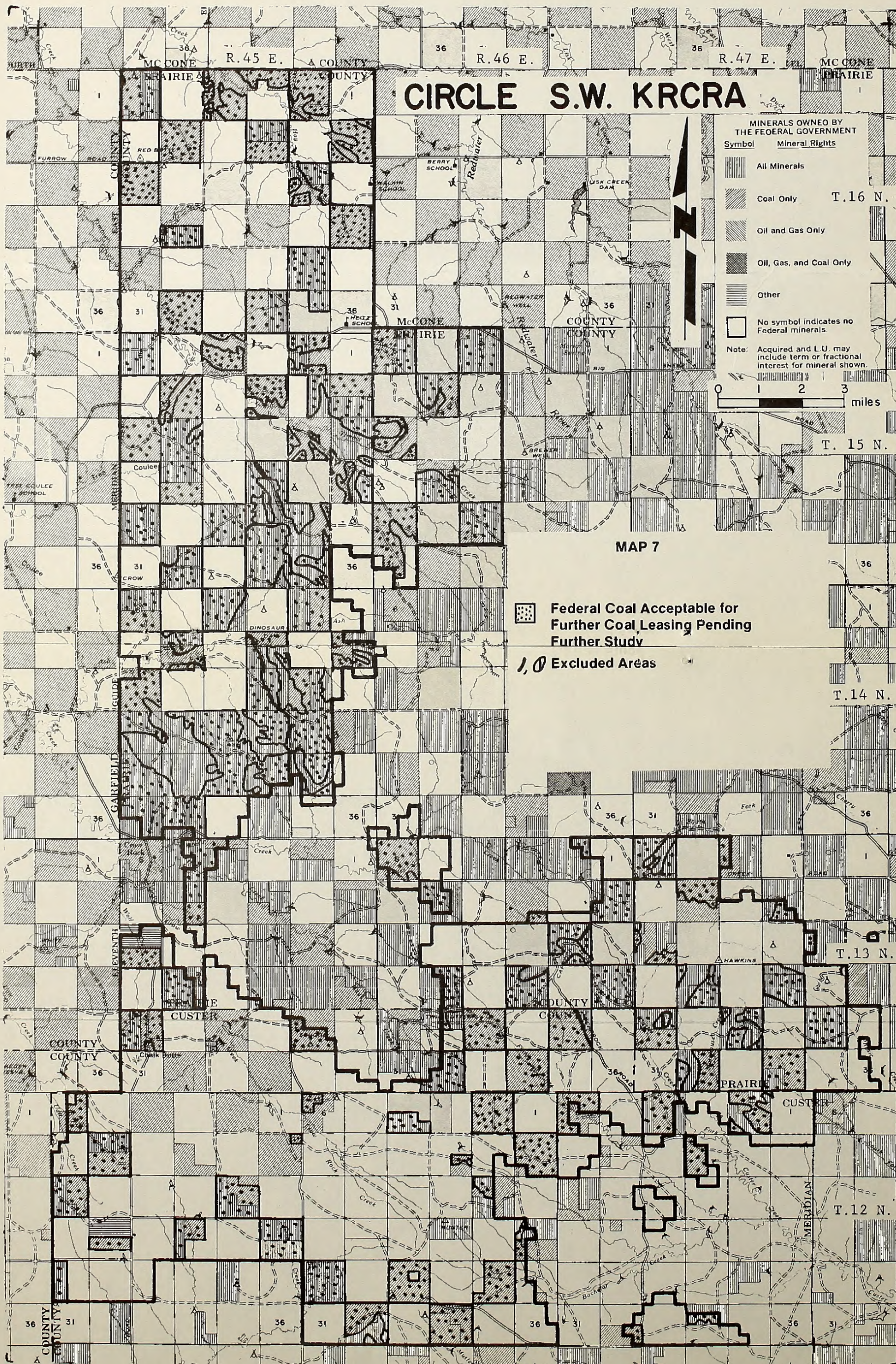
Federal coal preliminarily eliminated from further consideration for leasing or exchange is shown in Table II.B-8 and on maps in the various KRCRA discussions which follow. Tonnages and acreages dropped and carried forward are also addressed in the individual KRCRA discussions which follow.

Rationale: M-1.1

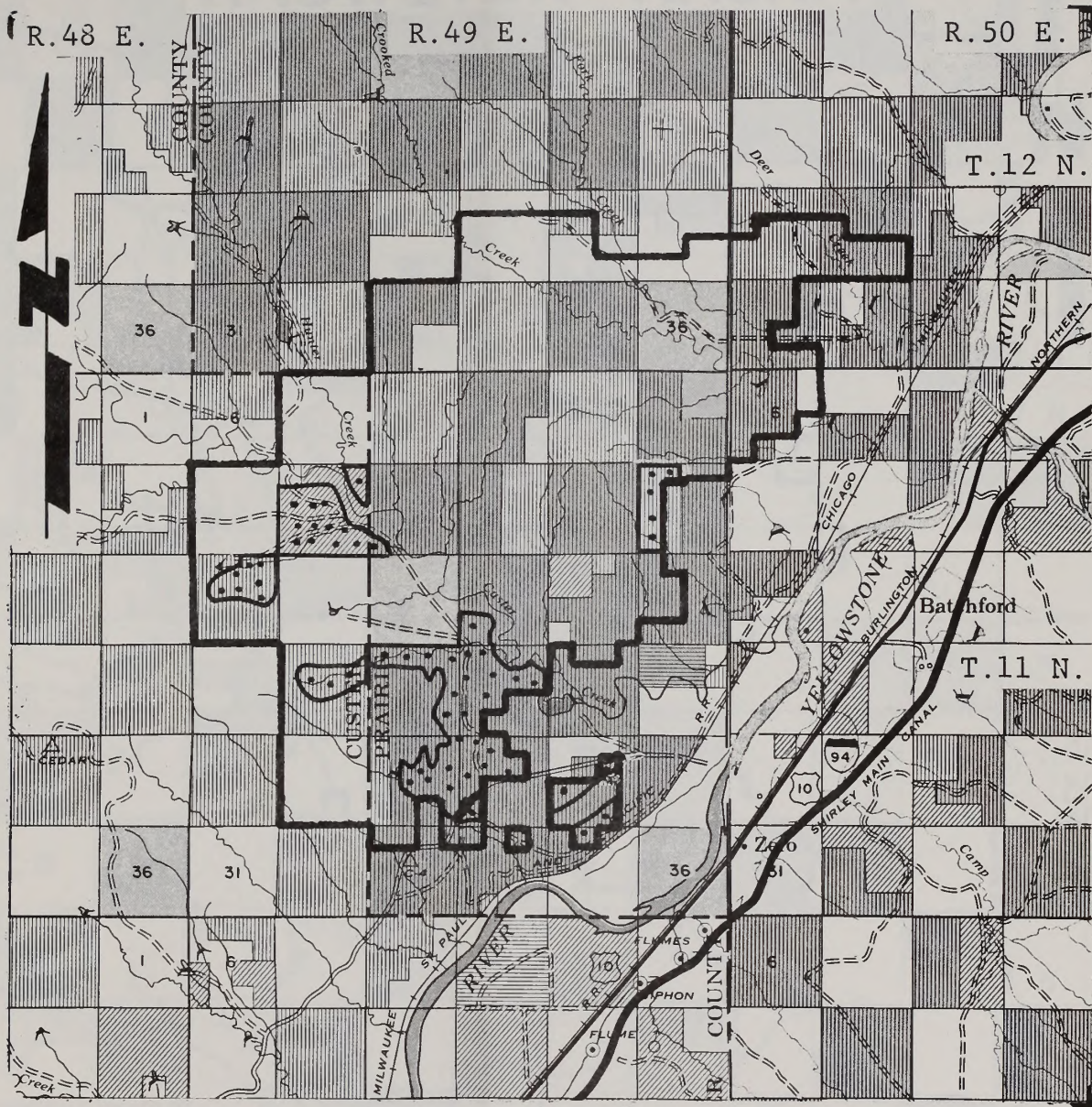
Allow implementation of the Secretary's decision in selecting a preferred Federal Coal Management Program. The rationale for minerals exchange is to promote the efficient management of the public lands through consolidation into manageable units, and is in consonance with Section 206 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act.

**TABLE II.B-12
ACREAGES AND TONNAGES OF FEDERAL COAL ACCEPTABLE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION FOR COAL LEASING PENDING FURTHER STUDY**

KRCRA	Acres	Million Tons
Circle (including extensions)	52,450	670
Custer Creek	2,455	62
Carlyle	20,400	164
Ismay	58,670	513
Knowlton	3,625	124
Lame Jones (including extensions)	18,325	279
Total	155,925	1,812



CUSTER CREEK KRCRA



Symbol	Mineral Rights
--------	----------------

All Minerals

Coal Only

Oil and Gas Only

Oil, Gas, and Coal Only

Other

No symbol indicates no Federal minerals.

Note: Acquired and L.U. may include term or fractional interest for mineral shown.

A horizontal number line with tick marks at 0, 1, 2, and 3. The word "miles" is written at the right end. The segment between 1 and 2 is shaded black.

Federal Coal Acceptable for Further Coal Leasing Pending Further Study

Excluded Areas

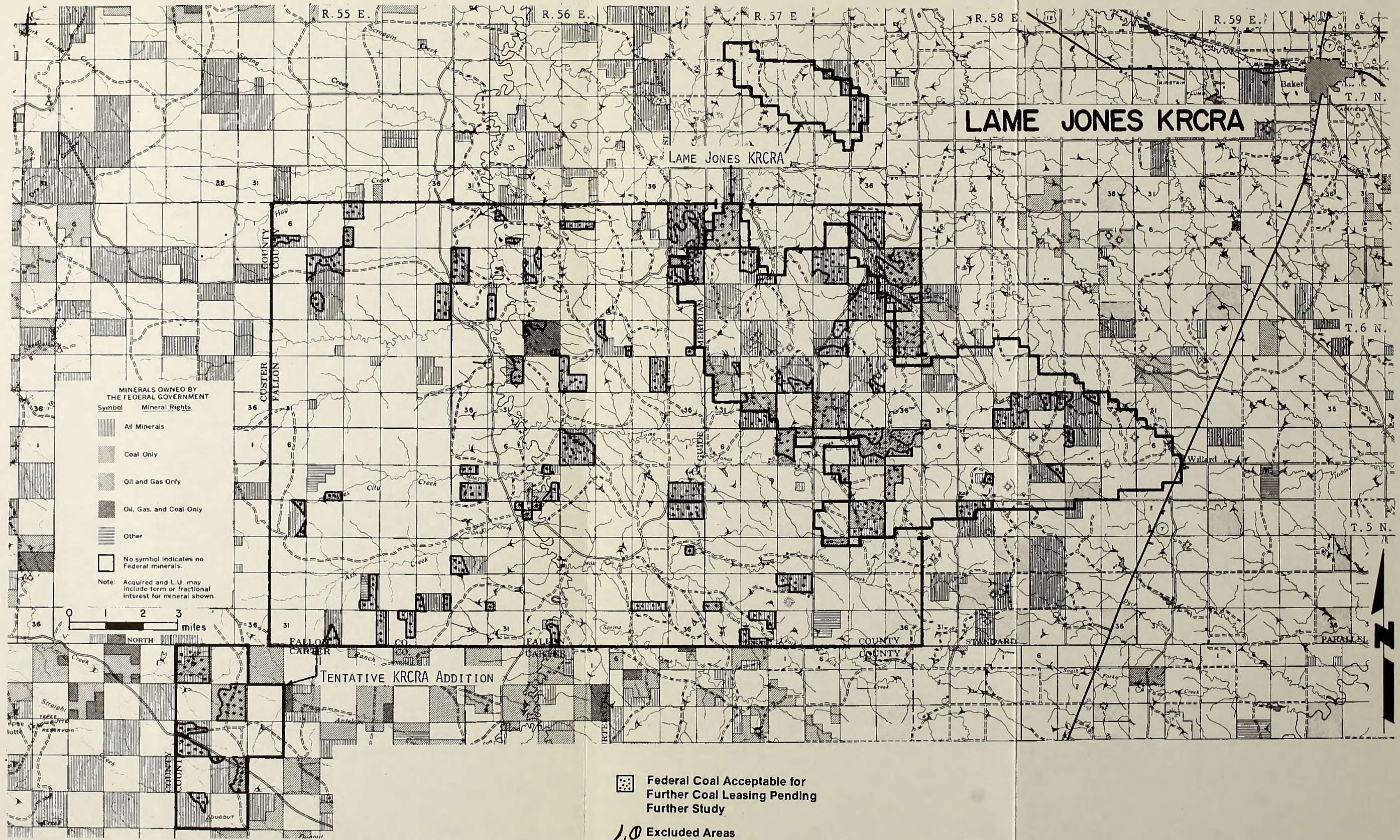
MAP 8

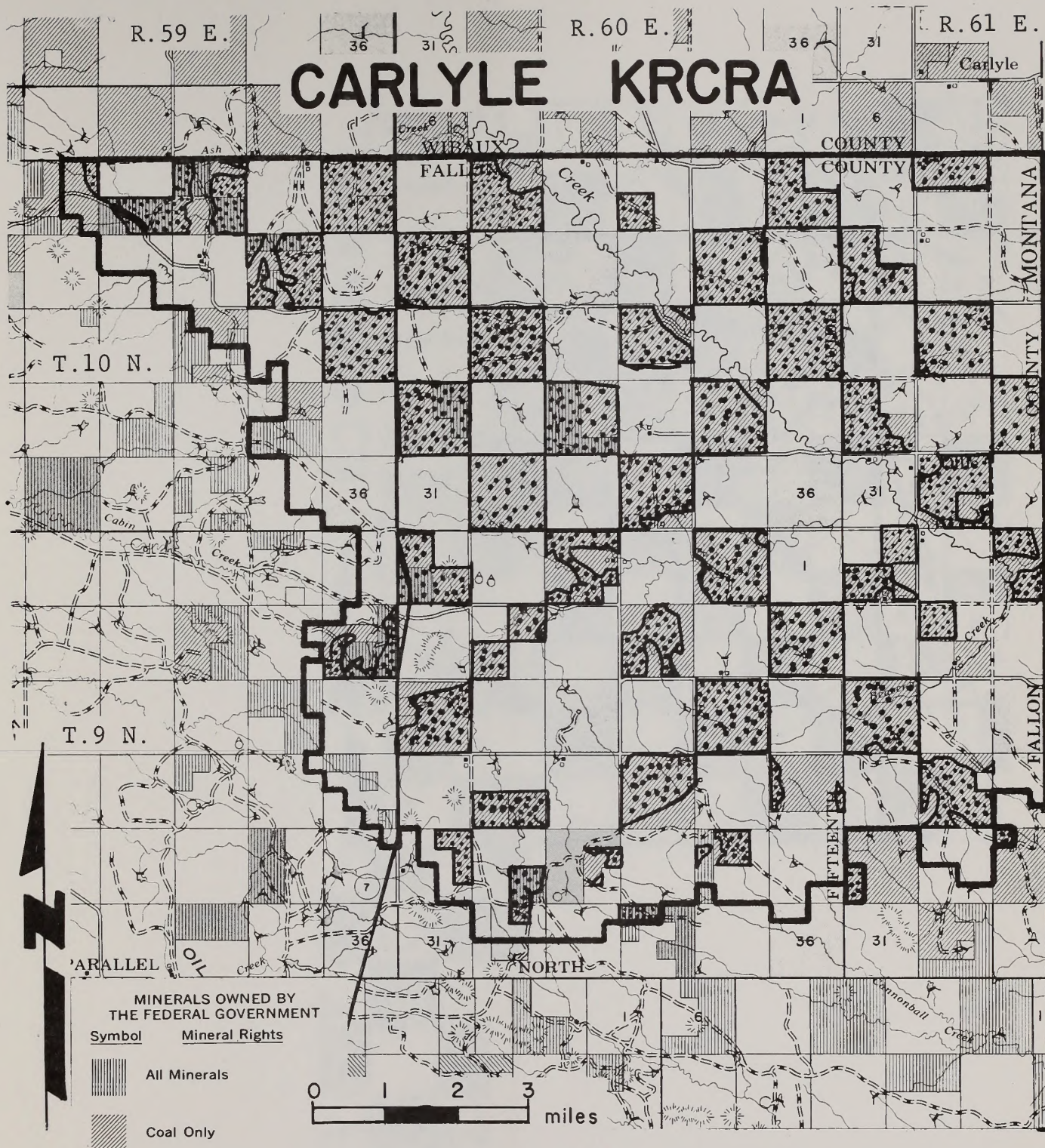
KNOWLTON KIRORA



Scale 1:50,000
Projection UTM
Datum WGS 84

Source: Survey of India



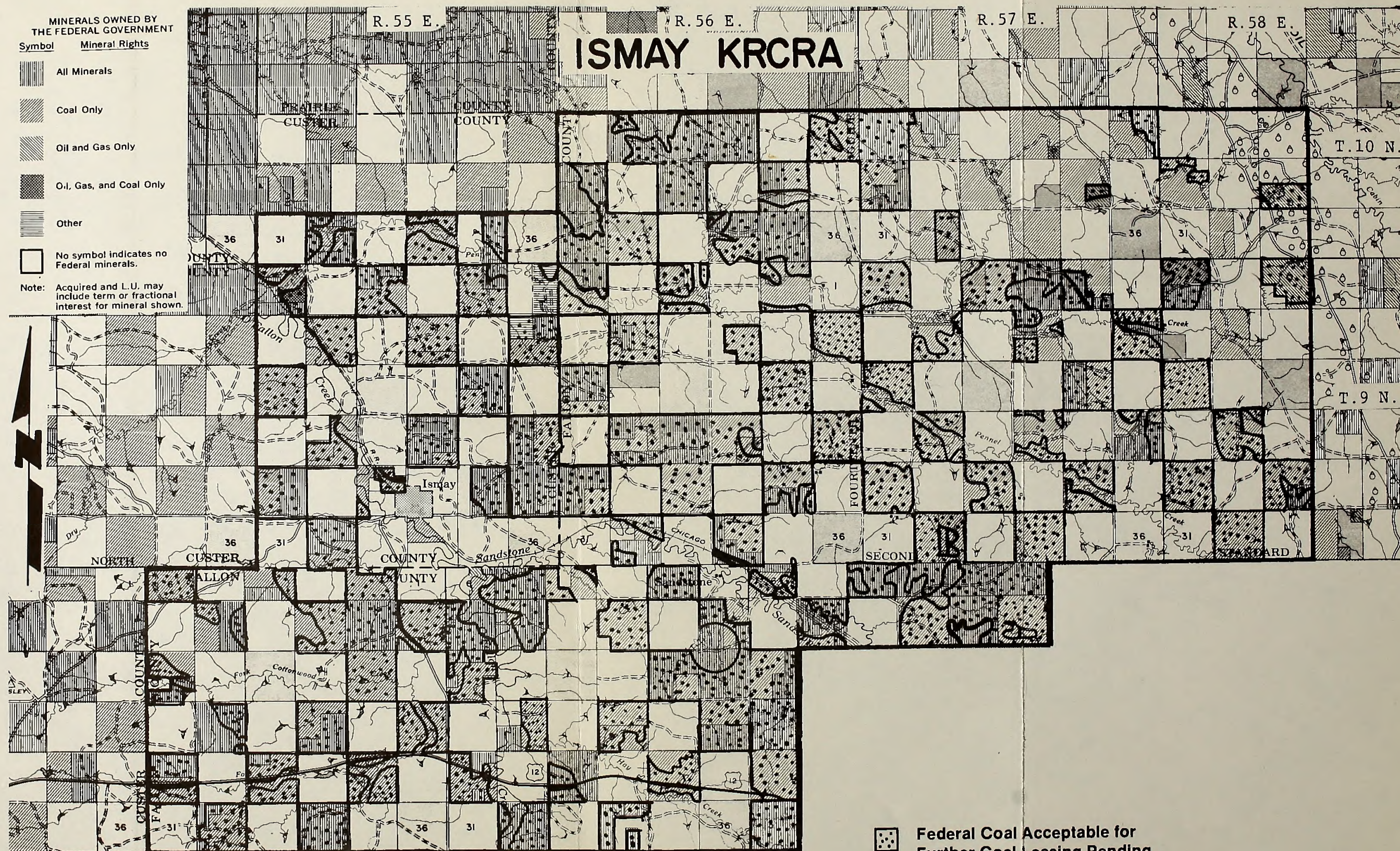


MINERALS OWNED BY
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Symbol Mineral Rights

-  All Minerals
-  Coal Only
-  Oil and Gas Only
-  Oil, Gas, and Coal Only
-  Other
-  No symbol indicates no Federal minerals.

Note: Acquired and L.U. may include term or fractional interest for mineral shown.



 Federal Coal Acceptable for Further Coal Leasing Pending Further Study

 Excluded Areas

MAP 12

CIRCLE SOUTHWEST KRCRA

SURFACE OWNER CONSULTATION AND RESPONSE ANALYSIS

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

District <u>Miles City</u>	District Manager <u>Ray Brubaker</u>
Resource Area <u>Big Dry</u>	Resource Area Manager <u>Don Nelson</u>
Planning Unit <u>Kinsey & Prairie</u> # <u>05, 14</u>	DO Planning Coord. <u>Dwight Conley</u>
Coal Field or Area <u>Circle SW KRCRA</u>	SO Planning Coord. <u>Rob McWhorter</u>
Date letters sent to surface owners: <u>Jan. 19, 1981</u>	
Date of this analysis: <u>March 11, 1981</u>	

II. OWNERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Surface owners consulted identified through county courthouse records:	30	
Total acres in parcels described in letters:	41,142	
Number of known unqualified surface owners:	5	16.7 %
Acres owned by known unqualified owners:	14,267	34.7 %
Number of qualified surface owners:	25	83.3 %
Acres owned by qualified surface owners:	26,875	65.3 %
Surface owners with outstanding surface leases:	0	0 %
Acres covered by outstanding surface leases:	0	0 %

III.* RESPONSE ANALYSIS OF QUALIFIED SURFACE OWNERS

Total responses received from qualified surface owners:	17	68.0 %
Number of surface owners against leasing:	5	20.0 %
Acres owned by surface owners against leasing:	8,384	31.2 %
Number of surface owners who favor leasing:	5	20.0 %
Acres owned by surface owners who favor leasing:	6,548	24.4 %
Number of surface owners who are undecided on leasing:	5	20.0 %
Acres owned by surface owners who are undecided:	4,045	15.0 %
Number of surface owners who did not respond:	8	32.0 %
Acres owned by surface owners who did not respond:	7,818	29.1 %
Number of surface owners who have a split preference:	1	4.0 %

Acres of land with a split preference are included in the appropriate column (i.e., favor, oppose or undecided).

* Values given are for qualified surface owners overlying federal minerals

NOTE: Qualifications of surface owners were not formally adjudicated by the BLM. Each surface owner was asked to qualify or disqualify himself based on information supplied in the surface owner consultation letter which each surface owner received.

Application of Unsuitability Criteria Circle Southwest KRCRA

Criteria found not to apply to the KRCRA were 1,4,5,6,8,16,17,18, and 20. Those which applied to the KRCRA are as follows and illustrated on Map 14.

Criterion 2: Rights-of-Way and Easements

In the Circle S.W. KRCRA, road rights-of-way occur over 26 miles of federal surface. These rights-of-way eliminated 312 acres and 4.0 million tons of coal from further consideration.

Exception

No exception was applied at this time. Any exception applied would require formal approval of all parties involved in the right-of-way. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

Criterion 3: Buffer Zones Along Rights-of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings

One occupied dwelling and 31.25 miles of public road were identified in the KRCRA over federal minerals. The dwelling with a 300 foot buffer zone eliminated 6.5 acres and 0.1 million tons of coal. The 31.25 miles of road right-of-way and the buffer zone on either side eliminated 1125 acres and 14.4 million tons of coal from further consideration.

Exception

No exception can be applied at this time to the dwelling or buffer zones along the rights-of-way. Any exceptions applied would require formal agreement by all involved parties. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

Criterion 7: Historic Lands and Sites

Adequate archaeological inventories have not been accomplished in this KRCRA and there are no recorded cultural resources. Since adequate inventories are not available, this criteria could not be applied at this time. Prior to any activity planning, inventory and unsuitability application will have to be accomplished.

Criteria 9 through 15: Wildlife Related

The seven criteria dealing with wildlife were not applied to this KRCRA as baseline inventory adequate to meet the requirements of the coal unsuitability criteria is not available at this time. Some grouse lek inventory work has been done in the area, but not in sufficient intensity

to identify bird distribution patterns. Similarly, broad winter range designations have been made for deer and antelope, but most crucial areas have not been determined. Site specific baseline inventories and the application of the unsuitability criteria will have to be accomplished prior to any potential lease sale EIS.

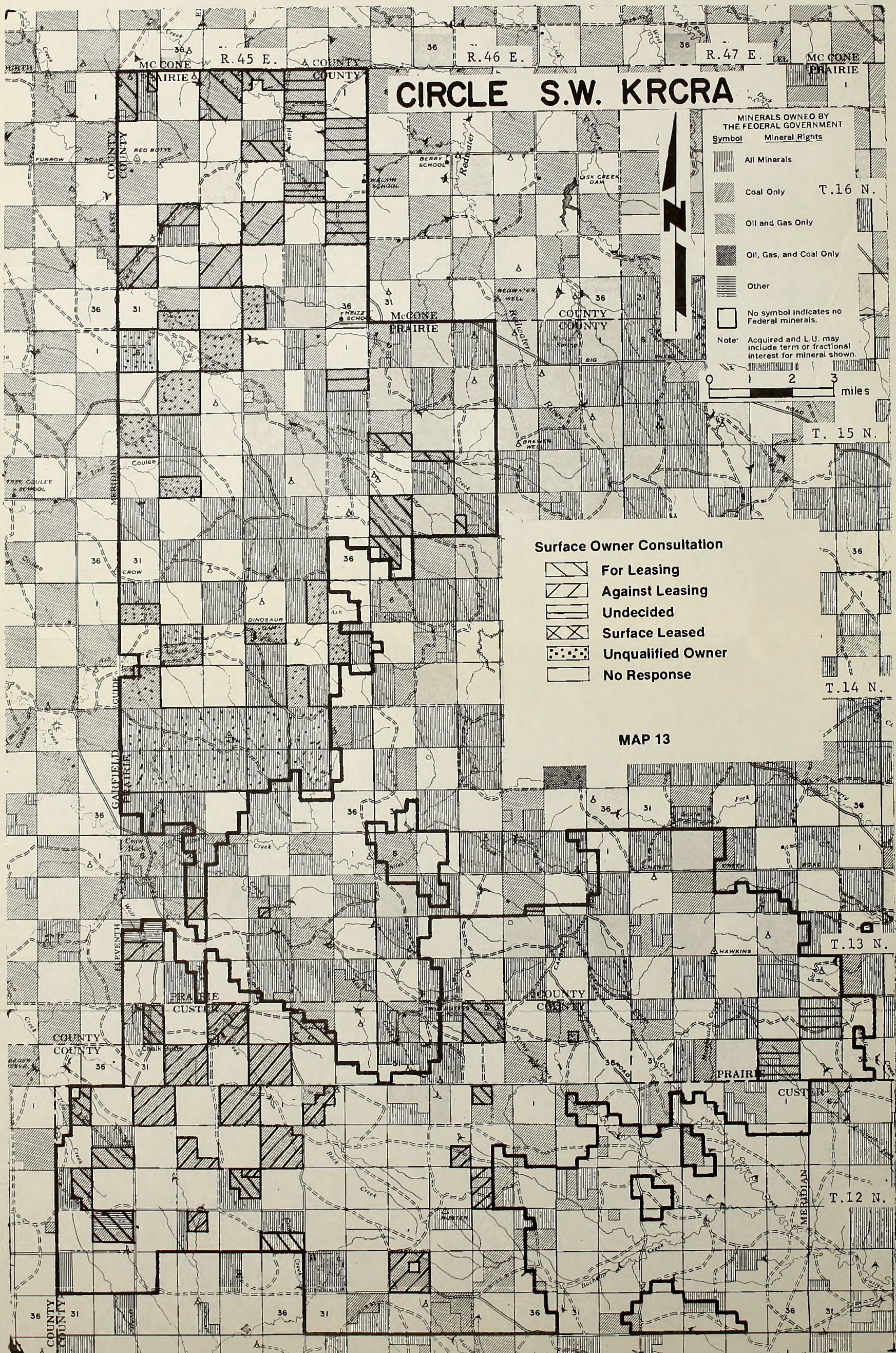
Criterion 19: Alluvial Valley Floors

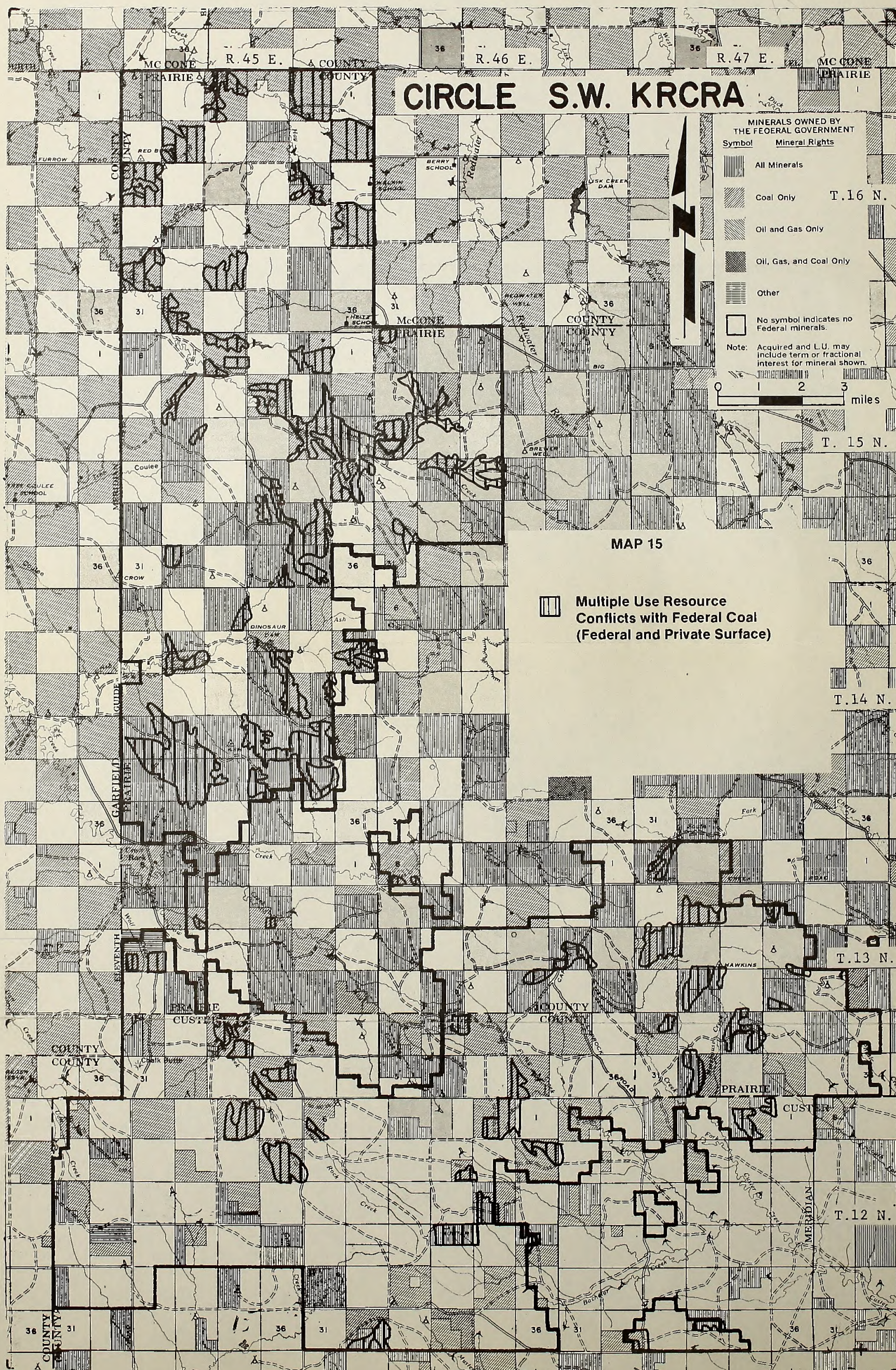
Areas preliminarily identified as alluvial valley floors (AVF's) have met both the geomorphic and water availability characteristics outlined in Part I of the August 15, 1978, draft guidelines provided by the Office of Surface Mining. Part I is intended to distinguish areas clearly not AVF's from those where further study may confirm identification of AVF's. Federal lands outside of the AVF's which, if mined, would contribute to the disruption of water systems supplying the AVF's, were not considered at this time. Sufficient data were available to preliminarily identify AVF's, however, due to the lack of detailed studies and final AVF guidelines, no areas were excluded from the lease recommendation area. More detailed analysis to determine final AVF's and contributing areas will be done during activity planning and prior to approval of a permit.

Preliminarily identified AVF's in the Circle SW KRCRA are Timber Creek and Crow Rock Creek with it's tributaries of Ash Creek, Whites Creek, and Hay Creek. Approximately 10 miles of Timber Creek has been identified as an AVF with 7 miles of this occurring over federal minerals. On Crow Rock Creek and it's three tributaries, approximately 22 miles of AVF's have been identified with the following breakdown by drainage: Crow Rock Creek, 6 miles (3 miles federal minerals); Ash Creek, 4 miles (2 miles federal minerals); Hay Creek, 4 miles (4 miles federal minerals); Whites Creek, 8 miles (5 miles federal minerals).

Multiple Use Resource Conflicts Circle Southwest KRCRA

Map 15 shows areas of multiple use resource conflicts with areas of federal coal. As noted in Section II.B.1.e, the District Manager may use these conflicting areas to establish a priority for defining areas as desirable or undesirable for coal leasing.





CUSTER CREEK KRCRA

SURFACE OWNER CONSULTATION AND RESPONSE ANALYSIS

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

District <u>Miles City</u>	District Manager <u>Ray Brubaker</u>
Resource Area <u>Big Dry</u>	Resource Area Manager <u>Don Nelson</u>
Planning Unit <u>Kinsey & Prairie</u> # <u>05, 14</u>	DO Planning Coord. <u>Dwight Conley</u>
Coal Field or Area <u>Custer Creek KRCRA</u>	SO Planning Coord. <u>Rob McWhorter</u>
Date letters sent to surface owners: <u>Jan. 19, 1981</u>	
Date of this analysis: <u>March 12, 1981</u>	

II. OWNERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Surface owners consulted identified through county courthouse records:	3	
Total acres in parcels described in letters:	1,240	
Number of known unqualified surface owners:	0	0 %
Acres owned by known unqualified owners:	0	0 %
Number of qualified surface owners:	3	100 %
Acres owned by qualified surface owners:	1,240	100 %
Surface owners with outstanding surface leases:	0	0 %
Acres covered by outstanding surface leases:	0	0 %

III.* RESPONSE ANALYSIS OF QUALIFIED SURFACE OWNERS

Total responses received from qualified surface owners:	1	33 %
Number of surface owners against leasing:	0	0 %
Acres owned by surface owners against leasing:	0	0 %
Number of surface owners who favor leasing:	0	0 %
Acres owned by surface owners who favor leasing:	0	0 %
Number of surface owners who are undecided on leasing:	1	33 %
Acres owned by surface owners who are undecided:	80	6.0 %
Number of surface owners who did not respond:	2	67 %
Acres owned by surface owners who did not respond:	1,160	94 %
Number of surface owners who have a split preference:	0	0 %

Acres of land with a split preference are included in the appropriate column (i.e., favor, oppose or undecided).

* Values given are for qualified surface owners overlying federal minerals

NOTE: Qualifications of surface owners were not formally adjudicated by the BLM. Each surface owner was asked to qualify or disqualify himself based on information supplied in the surface owner consultation letter which each surface owner received.

Application of Unsuitability Criteria Custer Creek KRCRA

Criteria found not to apply to the KRCRA were 1,3,6,8,16,17,18,19,and 20. Those which applied to the KRCRA are as follows and illustrated on Map 17.

Criterion 2: Rights-of-Way and Easements

In the Custer Creek KRCRA, one road right-of-way has been identified over 1.25 miles of federal surface. This right-of-way eliminated 15 acres and 0.4 million tons of coal from further consideration.

Exception

No exception was applied at this time. Any exception applied would require formal approval of all parties involved in the right-of-way. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

Criterion 4: Wilderness Study Areas

A portion of the Terry Badlands Wilderness Study Area (MT-024-684), consisting of approximately 9005 acres, lies within the Custer Creek KRCRA. These 9005 acres were found unsuitable and eliminated 226.9 million tons of coal.

Exemption

A valid existing right may exist on a portion of this exclusion in the form of coal preference right base applications by Amax Coal Company. Lease application in the unsuitable area total approximately 6,120 acres. If it is determined that commercial quantities of coal exist, these leases will have to be addressed.

Criterion 5: Visual Resource Management Class I Lands

That portion of the Terry Badlands Wilderness Study Area in the Custer Creek KRCRA is designated as VRM Class I lands. This class I designation excludes approximately 9165 acres and 230.9 million tons of coal.

Criterion 7: Historic Lands and Sites

One thousand nine hundred and twenty (1,920) acres have been inventoried in three cultural resource inventories contracted by BLM (Davis 1976; Western Interpretive Services 1976; Historical Research Associates 1980). These three inventories have identified 13 prehistoric sites and one historic site.

All of the prehistoric sites are lithic scatters, composed of locally abundant porcellanite, quartzite, cherts and agate, and consisting of tools and flakes. At one site 24PE95 a single hearth concentration of fire-cracked rock was recorded (HRA 1980). Only one of the prehistoric sites has been tested for the presence of subsurface deposits (ibid).

Given the small sample sizes to date, prediction of densities and locations of archeological sites is hazardous at present. Of the six sites located by Davis (1976), three are located on ridges, one on a bench, one on a

low terrace and one in a drainage bottom. Of the sites identified by HRA (1980), one is located on a stream terrace, two on hill tops, three on rolling upland terrain, and one on a bench. Mean site density given present inventory is 2.3 sites per square mile; this estimate is undoubtedly low and is due to the low acreage inventoried and reconnaissance nature of the inventories.

One significant historic site is present in the KRCRA, located on Sheridan Butte at the east end of the KRCRA. This site consists of the signatures of troopers attached to Company C, 6th Infantry. These troopers were part of attached Gen. Alfred H. Terry's command in the 1876 military campaign that culminated in the battles of the Rosebud and Little Big Horn. After the Little Big Horn fight, Terry's command retreated down the Yellowstone to Rosebud Creek where they rendezvoused with the command of General George Crook. The two armies proceeded overland to Powder River, then down the Powder to a base camp established earlier in the summer. The signatures and dates indicate that the troopers carved their names in June, 1876, during Terry's stay at the Powder-Yellowstone confluence and his rendezvous with the command under General Gibbon.

BLM has not initiated consultation with the State Historic Preservation office and the keeper of the National Register regarding the eligibility of the known sites in the KRCRA to date. None of the sites has received enough detailed recording to establish their eligibility for nomination to the National Register. It is likely that, with the possible exception of 24PE24, the Sheridan Butte historic petroglyphs, that the exception to Criterion 7 would apply to all of the sites presently known. Until determination of National Register eligibility is made, all areas of this KRCRA will be considered suitable for leasing pending further study.

Criterion 9: Federally Listed Endangered Species

A large number of black-tailed prairie dog towns have been identified in and around the Custer Creek KRCRA. Approximately 540 acres of towns exist within the KRCRA and 600 to 700 acres of towns occur within 2 miles of the boundary. Two hundred acres of dog towns within the KRCRA are also within the Terry Badlands Wilderness Study Area. In consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, their people feel that the present number and spacial distribution of prairie dog towns along Custer Creek appear to meet or exceed the minimum habitat requirements of the ferret as outlined in the Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Plan. Some evidence has been observed to support this determination. In conjunction with the application of the unsuitability criteria, a proposal exists to control a number of the prairie dog towns along Custer Creek. Clearance work will be accomplished this summer (1981) to determine the presence or absence of black-footed ferret. Upon completion of the clearance work, a

determination will be made as to which towns will be controlled and which towns will be excluded under the unsuitability criteria. The guidelines of the Ferret Recovery Plan will be adhered to as closely as possible to meet minimum requirements. If ferrets are identified on or near the KRCRA or within the control area, further consultation will be initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bald eagles have been observed on the adjacent Yellowstone River during the period of December through March. These are probably wintering eagles that remain as long as the river stays ice free.

No evidence of summer nesting has been observed in the KRCRA. Since the majority of use by bald eagles occurs on the Yellowstone River, no area was excluded by this criteria.

Peregrine falcons did breed in the Terry Badlands in the early 1900's but no recent evidence has been observed. One sighting of a peregrine was made in May of 1979 but this was probably a migrant bird. Since no evidence of recent use by peregrine falcon exists in the area, no area was excluded.

Criterion 10: State Listed Endangered Species

The Montana listing of endangered species is the same as the federal listing. Therefore, any delineation of unsuitable habitat made for criterion 9 would also apply for criterion 10.

Criterion 11: Bald and Golden Eagle Nest Sites

One golden eagle nest site has been identified in the NW1/4 of Section 4, T. 10 N., R. 49 E. This is outside the KRCRA by one mile, but the territory of this pair probably extends into the KRCRA to take in some of the black-tailed prairie dog towns. Since this nest is located in a relatively secure area and prairie dog towns do exist outside the KRCRA, no area was excluded for this nest.

Criterion 12: Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas

Bald eagles have been observed wintering along the Yellowstone River during the periods it remains ice free. Since the river is more than a mile from the KRCRA, no areas were excluded for this criterion.

Criterion 13: Falcon Cliff Nesting Sites

One prairie falcon nest site was identified in section 28, T. 12 N., R. 49E., adjacent to the KRCRA boundary. Since the adjoining sections within the KRCRA are private surface, private minerals, no area could be excluded to provide a buffer zone for this nest site. One other nest site was observed in section 30, T. 11 N., R. 49E. This nest is in a relatively secure area approximately 3/4 mile from the KRCRA. No area was excluded for this nest.

Criterion 14: Migratory Birds

Fifteen species of migratory birds considered as being of high federal interest have been identified in and around the KRCRA. The white pelican, double-crested cormorant, and osprey are primarily dependent on the Yellowstone River, which is located outside the KRCRA. No exclusions were made for these birds. Birds identified as transients in the area were the canvasback and yellow-rumped warbler. Raptors which were identified as breeding birds in the Terry Badlands area were the ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon (see criterion 13), merlin and the burrowing owl. Only the burrowing owl was observed nesting in the KRCRA. Two pairs nested in black-tailed prairie dog towns located over federal minerals. No areas were excluded for burrowing owls as a proposal currently exists for prairie dog control on a number of towns in the Custer Creek drainage. If this proposal is carried out, the loss of the prairie dog burrows would alter the habitat available to the burrowing owls. Until a decision is made for control and on what towns the control will take place, no areas will be excluded. A prairie dog control program would destroy the value of the controlled area as a burrowing owl habitat. Another bird dependant on prairie dog towns for nesting is the mountain plover. Only one observation of a probable migrant was made and no evidence of breeding in the area occurred. Since breeding did not occur, and the possibility of prairie dog control exists, no area was excluded. Even though control is proposed, all prairie dog towns will not be affected. In accordance with the BLM statewide Prairie Dog Policy Statement, habitat will be maintained to support dependent species. Other birds of high federal interest that occur in the area are the long-billed curlew, Sprague's pipit, loggerhead shrike, Brewer's sparrow and McCowen's longspur. These birds are all dependent on grasslands which are abundant in the area of the KRCRA. Because habitat is not limited for these species, no areas were excluded.

Criterion 15: State Resident Fish and Wildlife

One sage grouse arena has been identified in section 6, T. 11 N., R. 50 E. This is outside the KRCRA and is located over private surface, private minerals where no exclusion can be made to protect the arena. A portion of a sage grouse wintering area was also identified in the S1/2 of Section 29, T. 11 N., R. 49 E. This area is also located over private surface, private minerals, where no exclusion can be made.

Some evidence of mule deer and antelope wintering has been observed in the area of the KRCRA. Mule deer winter use of the rough breaks common to the area has averaged 2.9 deer per square mile. This is not high enough to be considered a crucial wintering area. Antelope winter use is also of low density as the KRCRA area is not considered good antelope habitat due to the

prevalent badlands landform, along with the lack of adequate sagebrush stands needed for winter survival. For these reasons, no area was excluded.

Other species considered of high interest by the State of Montana found in the area are:

- Mountain plover (see criterion 14)
- Upland sandpiper
- Ferruginous hawk (see criterion 14)
- Golden eagle (see criterion 11)
- Bald eagle (see criteria 9 and 12)
- Osprey (see criterion 14)
- Prairie falcon (see criterion 13)
- Peregrine falcon (see criterion 9)
- Merlin (see criterion 14)
- Burrowing owl (see criterion 14)
- Black-tailed prairie dog
- Black-footed ferret (see criterion 9)

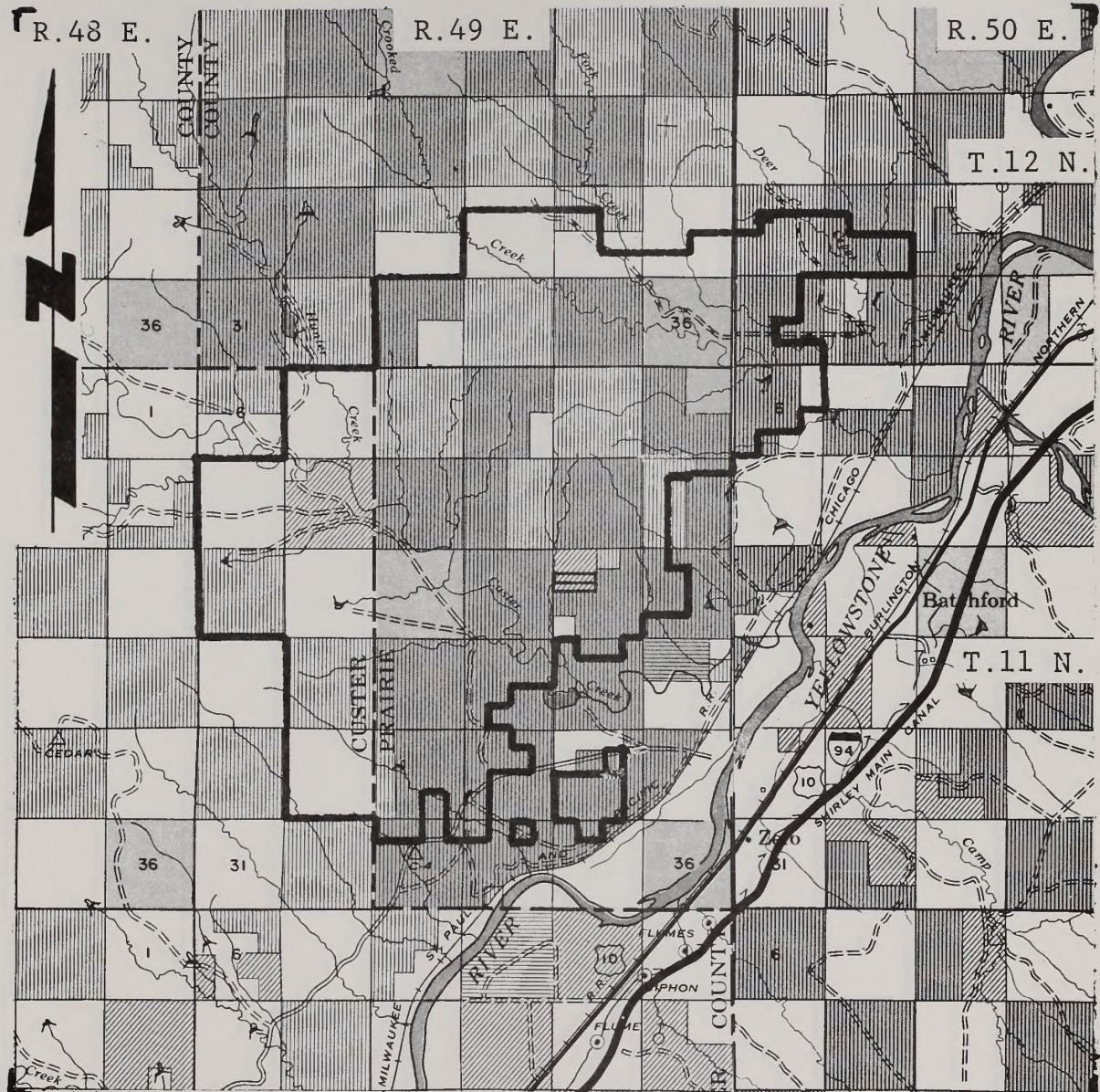
Black-tailed prairie dogs were discussed in criteria 9 and 14. Since the proposal for control of several of the towns in the KRCRA does exist, no determination for exclusion can be made until it is decided what towns will be controlled.

The upland sandpiper was observed in the grassland and sagebrush-grassland vegetation types of the area. Breeding may occur but no evidence was found. Since these particular habitat types are not limited in extent, no areas were excluded.

Multiple Use Resource Conflicts Custer Creek KRCRA

Map 18 shows areas of multiple use resource conflicts with areas of federal coal. As noted in Section II.B.1.e, the District Manager may use these conflicting areas to establish a priority for defining areas as desirable or undesirable for coal leasing.

CUSTER CREEK KRCRA



MINERALS OWNED BY
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Symbol	Mineral Rights
	All Minerals
	Coal Only
	Oil and Gas Only
	Oil, Gas, and Coal Only
	Other

No symbol indicates no Federal minerals.

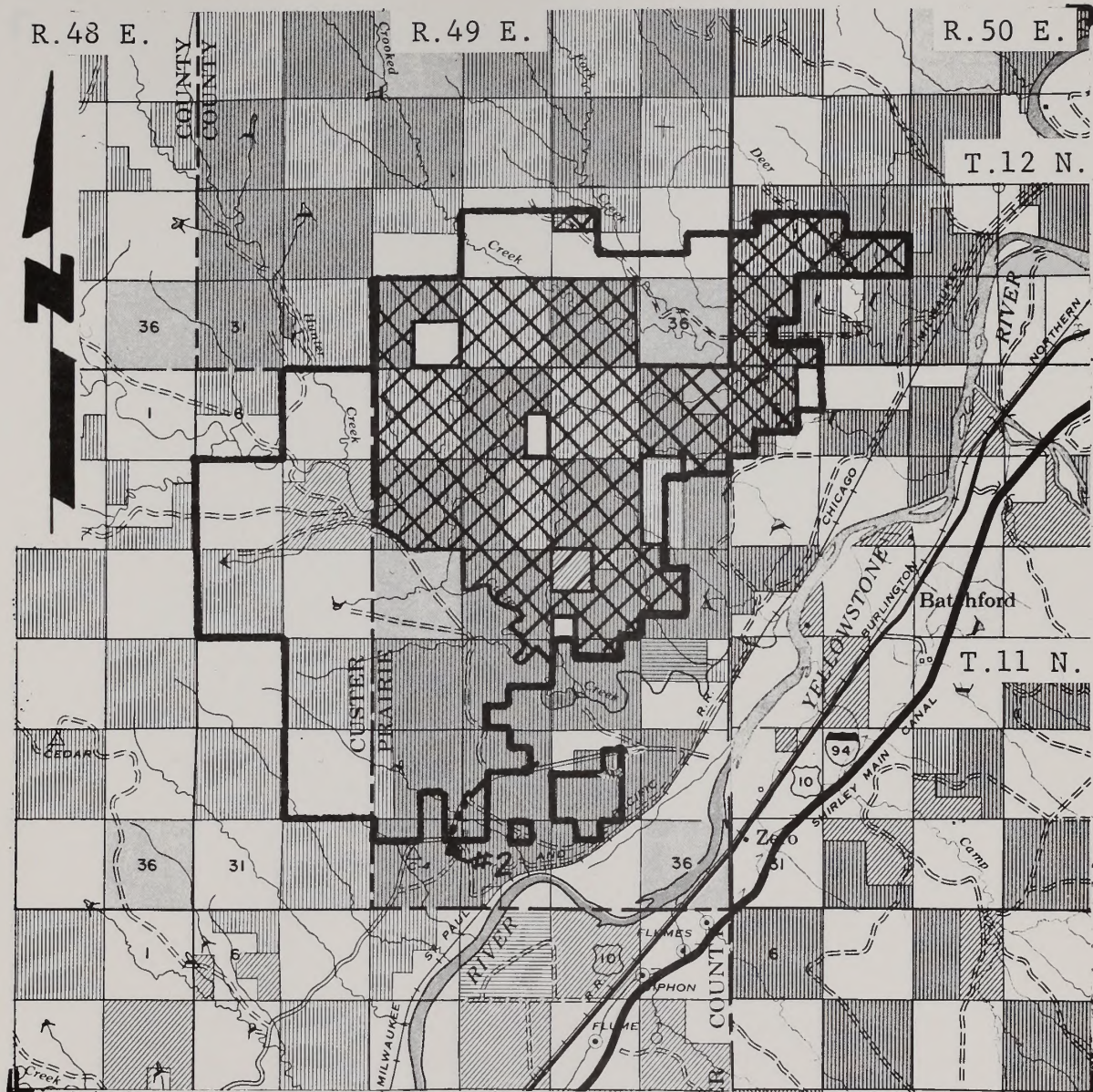
Note: Acquired and L.U. may include term or fractional interest for mineral shown.

0 1 2 3 miles

Surface Owner Consultation

	For Leasing
	Against Leasing
	Undecided
	Surface Leased
	Unqualified Owner
	No Response

CUSTER CREEK KRCRA



MINERALS OWNED BY
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Symbol Mineral Rights

-  All Minerals
-  Coal Only
-  Oil and Gas Only
-  Oil, Gas, and Coal Only
-  Other

 No symbol indicates no Federal minerals.

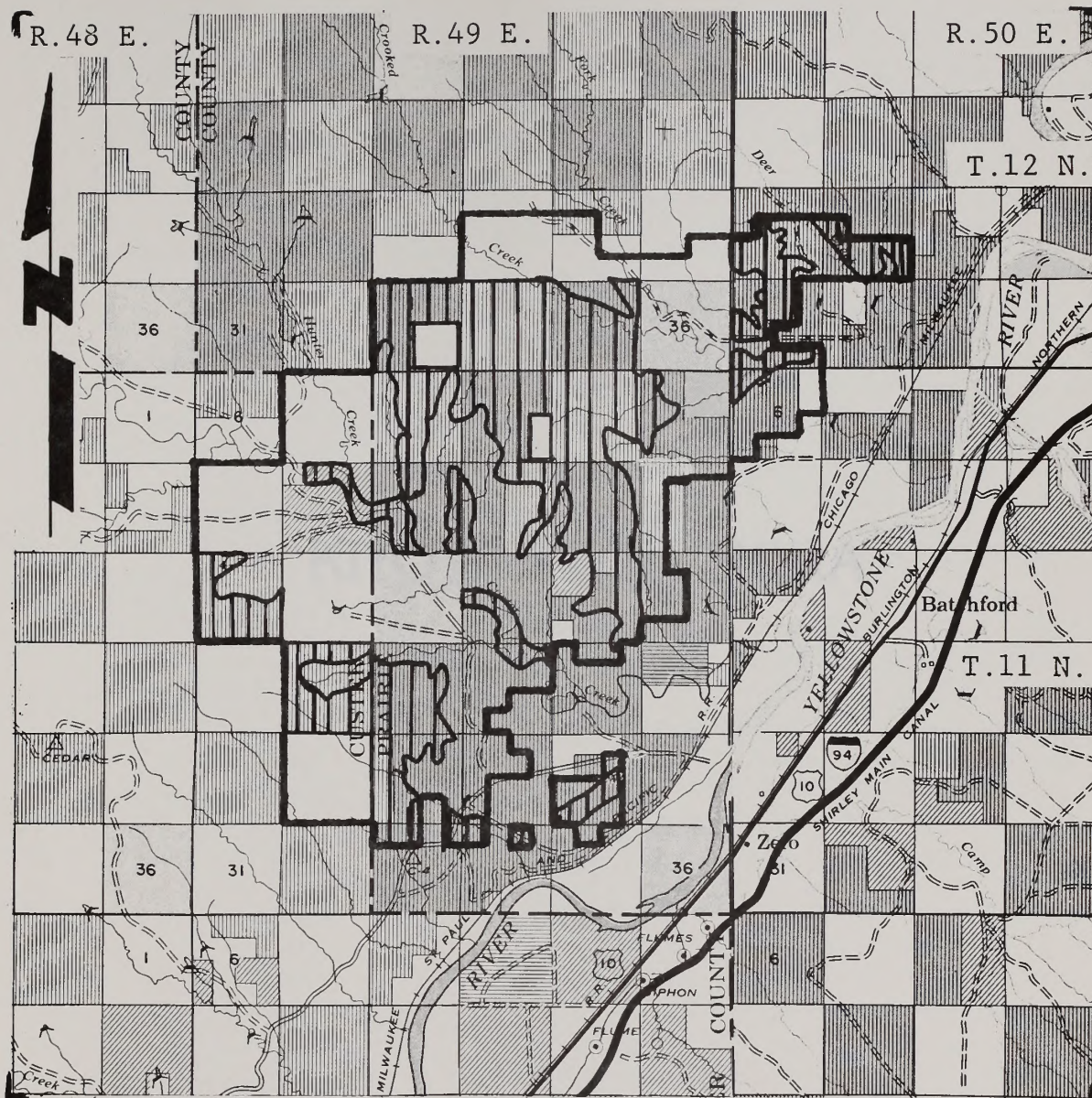
Note: Acquired and L.U. may include term or fractional interest for mineral shown.

0 1 2 3 miles

Unsuitability Criteria Application CRITERIA

-  2. Rights-of-Way and Easements
-  4. Wilderness Study Areas
-  5. Scenic Federal Lands

CUSTER CREEK KRCRA



MINERALS OWNED BY
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Symbol Mineral Rights



All Minerals



Coal Only



Oil and Gas Only



Oil, Gas, and Coal Only



Other



No symbol indicates no
Federal minerals.



**Multiple Use Resource
Conflicts with Federal Coal
(Federal and Private Surface)**

Note: Acquired and L.U. may
include term or fractional
interest for mineral shown.

KNOWLTON KRCRA

SURFACE OWNER CONSULTATION AND RESPONSE ANALYSIS

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

District Miles City District Manager Ray Brubaker
 Resource Area Big Dry Resource Area Manager Don Nelson
 Planning Unit Baker # 16 DO Planning Coord. Dwight Conley
 Coal Field or Area Knowlton KRCRA SO Planning Coord. Rob McWhorter
 Date letters sent to surface owners: Jan. 19, 1981
 Date of this analysis: March 11, 1981

II. OWNERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Surface owners consulted identified through county courthouse records:	8	
Total acres in parcels described in letters:	1,873	
Number of known unqualified surface owners:	0	0 %
Acres owned by known unqualified owners:	0	0 %
Number of qualified surface owners:	8	100 %
Acres owned by qualified surface owners:	1,873	100 %
Surface owners with outstanding surface leases:	3**	37.5 %
Acres covered by outstanding surface leases:	797	42.5 %

III.* RESPONSE ANALYSIS OF QUALIFIED SURFACE OWNERS

Total responses received from qualified surface owners:	3	37.5 %
Number of surface owners against leasing:	0	0 %
Acres owned by surface owners against leasing:	0	0 %
Number of surface owners who favor leasing:	1	12.5 %
Acres owned by surface owners who favor leasing:	160	8.5 %
Number of surface owners who are undecided on leasing:	2**	12.5 %
Acres owned by surface owners who are undecided:	199	10.6 %
Number of surface owners who did not respond:	3	37.5 %
Acres owned by surface owners who did not respond:	717	38.3 %
Number of surface owners who have a split preference:	0	0 %

Acres of land with a split preference are included in the appropriate column (i.e., favor, oppose or undecided).

* Values given are for qualified surface owners overlying federal minerals.

** One surface owner had 1 parcel of leased land and 1 parcel on which he was undecided.

NOTE: Qualifications of surface owners were not formally adjudicated by the BLM. Each surface owner was asked to qualify or disqualify himself based on information supplied in the surface owner consultation letter which each surface owner received.

Application of Unsuitability Criteria Knowlton KRCRA

Criteria found not to apply to the KRCRA were 1,4,5,6,8,16,17,18,19, and 20. Those which applied are as follows and illustrated on Map 20.

Criterion 2: Rights-of-Way and Easements

In the Knowlton KRCRA, road rights-of-way occur over 7.5 miles of federal surface lands. These rights-of-way eliminated 90 acres of land, 24 acres of which are located over federal surface, private minerals. Those 66 acres over federal mineral eliminated 2.3 million tons of coal.

Exception

No exception was applied at this time. Any exception applied would require formal approval of all involved parties in the right-of-way. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

Criterion 3: Buffer Zones Along Rights-of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings

One occupied dwelling and .5 mile of public road were identified in the KRCRA over federal minerals. The dwelling and a 300 foot buffer around it eliminated 6.5 acres containing 0.2 million tons of coal. The road and buffer zone along it eliminated an additional 18 acres and 0.6 million tons of coal.

Exception

No exceptions can be applied at this time to the dwelling or buffer zone along the road. Any exceptions applied would require formal agreement by all involved

parties. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

Criterion 7: Historic Lands and Sites

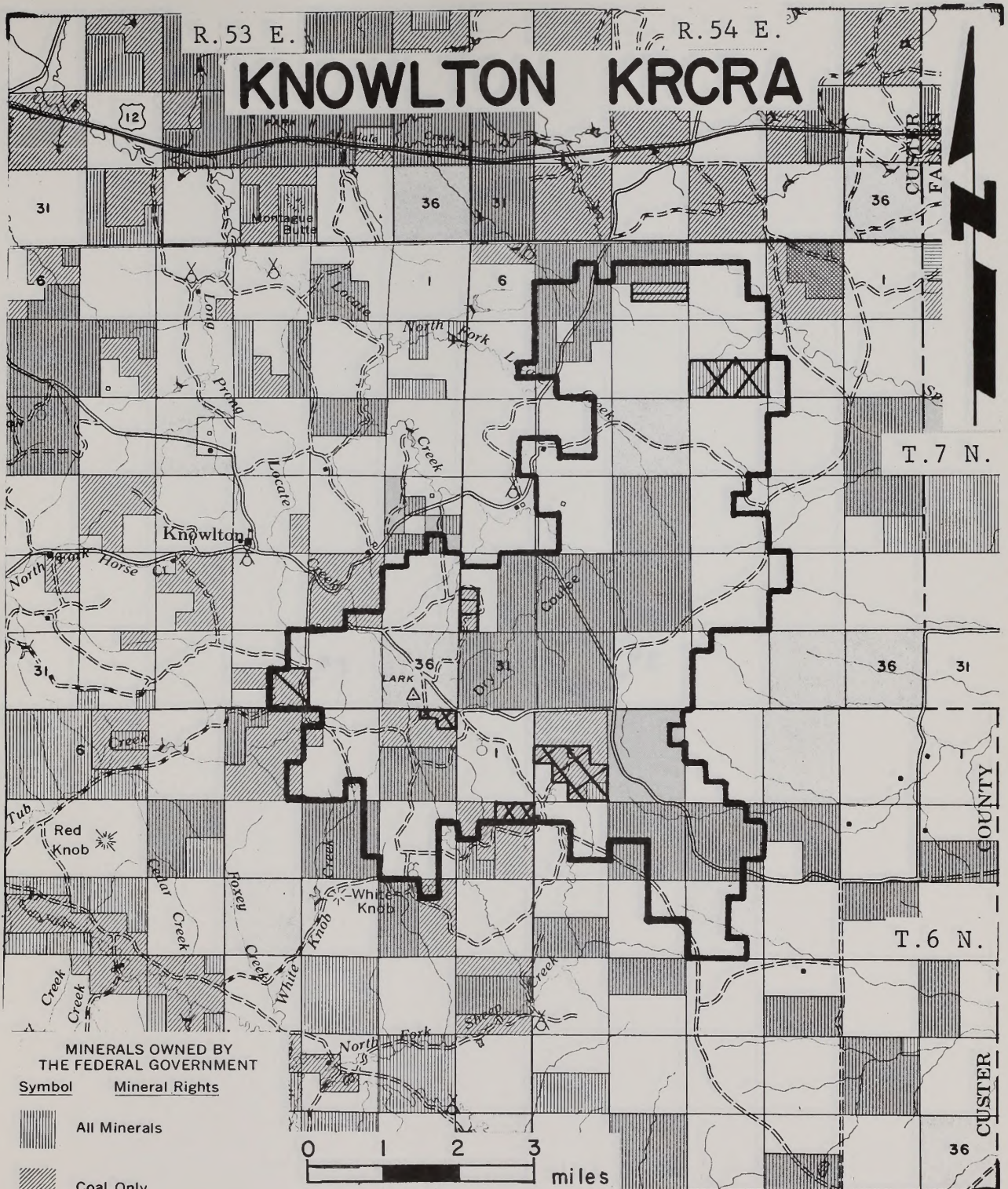
Adequate archaeological inventories have not been accomplished in this KRCRA, and there are no recorded cultural resources. Since adequate inventories are not available, this criteria could not be applied at this time. Prior to any future lease sale EIS, inventory and unsuitability application will have to be accomplished.

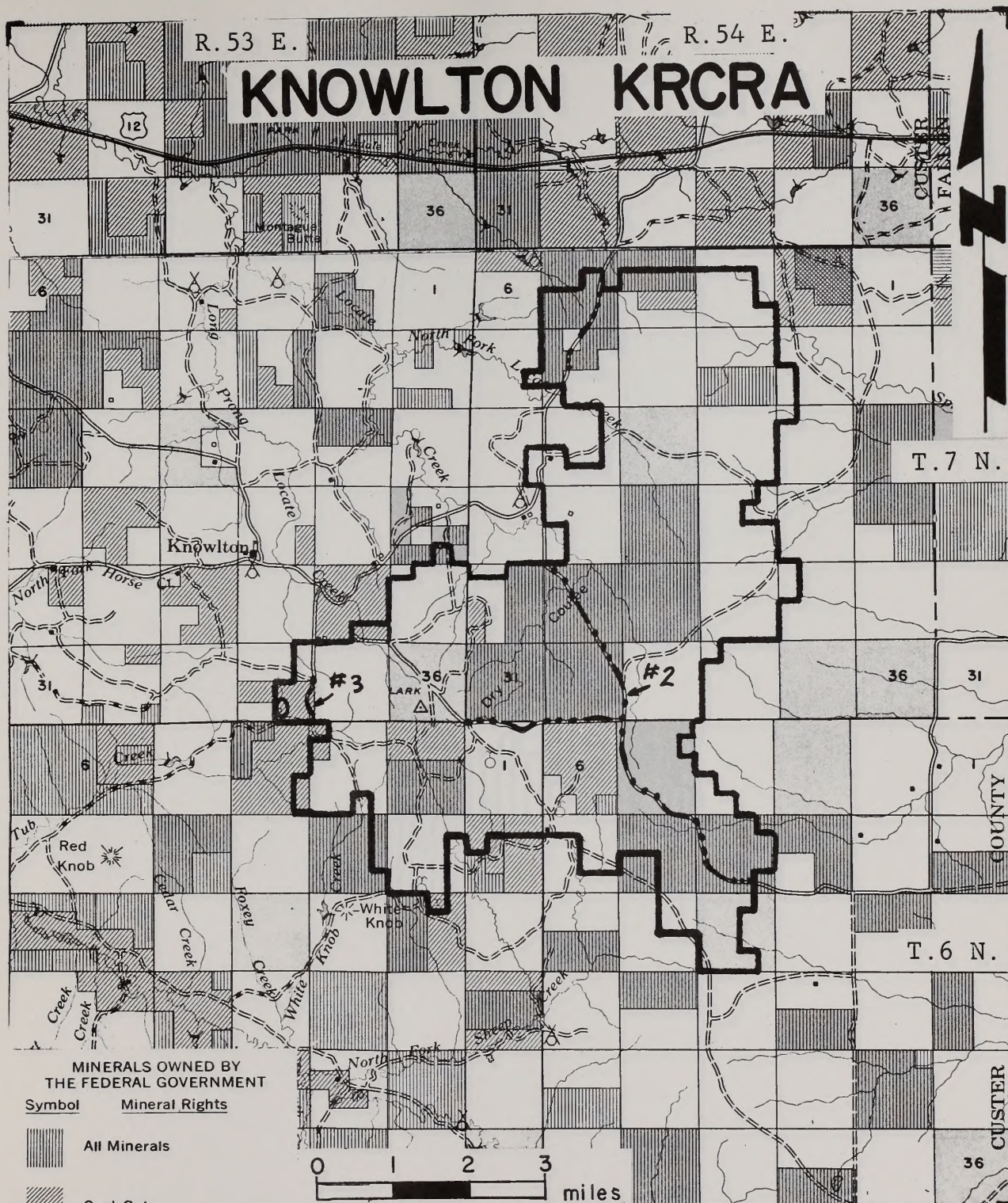
Criteria 9 through 15: Wildlife Related

The seven criteria dealing with wildlife were not applied to this KRCRA as site specific baseline inventory adequate to meet the requirements of the coal unsuitability criteria is not available at this time. Only inventory suitable for general land use planning is currently available. Baseline inventories and the application of the unsuitability criteria will have to be accomplished prior to any potential lease sale EIS. All areas are suitable pending further study.

Multiple Use Resource Conflicts Knowlton KRCRA

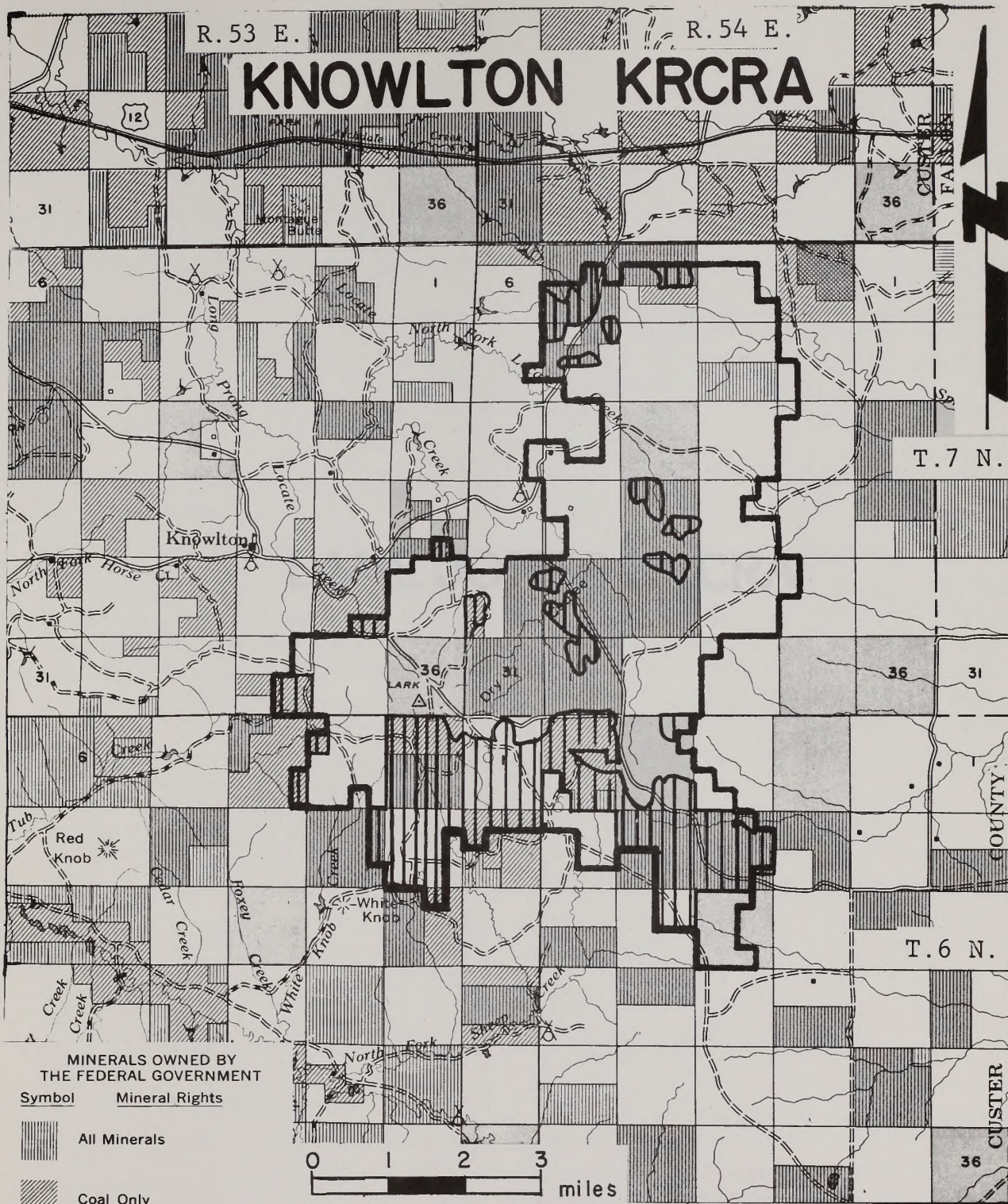
Map 21 shows areas of multiple use conflicts with areas of federal coal. As noted in Section II.B.1.e, the District Manager may use this information to establish a priority for defining areas as desirable or undesirable for coal leasing.





Unsuitability Criteria Application CRITERIA

- 2. Rights-of-Way and Easements
- o, --- 3. Buffer Zones Along Rights-of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings



Note: Acquired and L.U. may include term or fractional interest for mineral shown.

LAME JONES KRCRA

SURFACE OWNER CONSULTATION AND RESPONSE ANALYSIS

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

District <u> Miles City </u>	District Manager <u> Ray Brubaker </u>
Resource Area <u> Big Dry </u>	Resource Area Manager <u> Don Nelson </u>
Planning Unit <u> Baker </u> # <u> 16 </u>	DO Planning Coord. <u> Dwight Conley </u>
Coal Field or Area <u> Lame Jones KRCRA </u>	SO Planning Coord. <u> Rob McWhorter </u>
Date letters sent to surface owners: <u> Jan. 19, 1981 </u>	
Date of this analysis: <u> March 12, 1981 </u>	

II. OWNERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Surface owners consulted identified through county courthouse records:	28	
Total acres in parcels described in letters:	13,990	
Number of known unqualified surface owners:	2	7.1 %
Acres owned by known unqualified owners:	477	3.4 %
Number of qualified surface owners:	26	92.8 %
Acres owned by qualified surface owners:	13,514	96.5 %
Surface owners with outstanding surface leases:	0	0 %
Acres covered by outstanding surface leases:	0	0 %

III.* RESPONSE ANALYSIS OF QUALIFIED SURFACE OWNERS

Total responses received from qualified surface owners:	20	76.9 %
Number of surface owners against leasing:	5	19.2 %
Acres owned by surface owners against leasing:	1,401	10.3 %
Number of surface owners who favor leasing:	8	30.7 %
Acres owned by surface owners who favor leasing:	4,534	33.5 %
Number of surface owners who are undecided on leasing:	7	26.9 %
Acres owned by surface owners who are undecided:	4,640	34.3 %
Number of surface owners who did not respond:	6	23.1 %
Acres owned by surface owners who did not respond:	2,939	21.7 %
Number of surface owners who have a split preference:	0	0 %

Acres of land with a split preference are included in the appropriate column (i.e., favor, oppose or undecided).

* Values given are for qualified surface owners overlying federal minerals

NOTE: Qualifications of surface owners were not formally adjudicated by the BLM. Each surface owner was asked to qualify or disqualify himself based on information supplied in the surface owner consultation letter which each surface owner received.

Application of Unsuitability Criteria Lame Jones KRCRA

Criteria found not to apply to the KRCRA were 1,4,5,6,8,17,18, and 20. Those which applied are as follows and illustrated on Map 23.

Criterion 2: Rights-of-Way and Easements

In the Lame Jones KRCRA, road rights-of-way occur over 13 miles of federal surface lands. These rights-of-way eliminated 156 acres of land, and 2.4 million tons of coal from further consideration.

Exception

No exception was applied at this time. Any exception applied would require formal approval of all involved parties in the right-of-way. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

Criterion 3: Buffer Zones Along Rights-of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings.

One occupied dwelling and 3.25 miles of public road were identified in the KRCRA over federal minerals. The dwelling and a 300 foot buffer around it eliminated 6.5 acres containing 0.09 million tons of coal. The road right-of-way and the buffer zone on either side of it eliminated an additional 117 acres and 1.8 million tons of coal.

Exception

No exception can be applied at this time to the dwelling or buffer zone along the rights-of-way. Any exception applied would require formal agreement by all involved parties. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

Criterion 7: Historic Lands and Sites

Adequate archaeological inventories have not been accomplished in this KRCRA, and there are no recorded cultural resources. Since adequate inventories are not available, this criteria could not be applied at this time. Prior to any future lease sale EIS, inventory and unsuitability application will have to be accomplished.

Criteria 9 through 15: Wildlife Related

The seven criteria dealing with wildlife were not applied to this KRCRA as site specific baseline inventory adequate to meet the requirements of the coal unsuitability criteria is not available at this time. Broad winter range

designations for deer and antelope have been made, but most crucial areas have not been determined. Baseline inventories and the application of the unsuitability criteria will have to be accomplished prior to any lease sale EIS.

Criterion 16: Floodplains

A 100 year floodplain has been identified by the U.S. Geological Survey along Fallon Creek. This floodplain occurs over approximately 10 linear miles, 1.5 miles of which is federal coal. Until determination of a substantial threat of loss of life or property, no area will be declared unsuitable under this criteria.

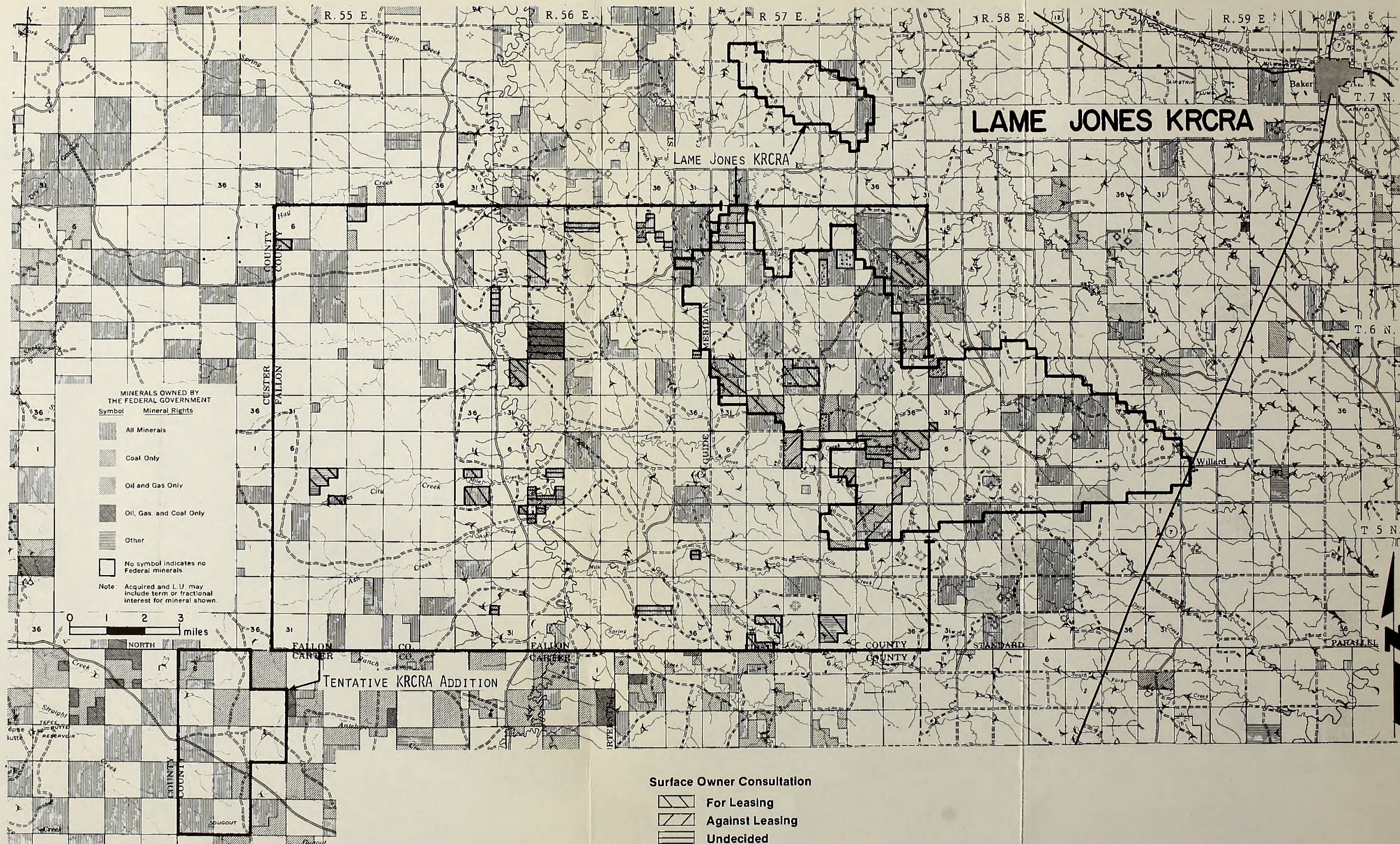
Criterion 19: Alluvial Valley Floors

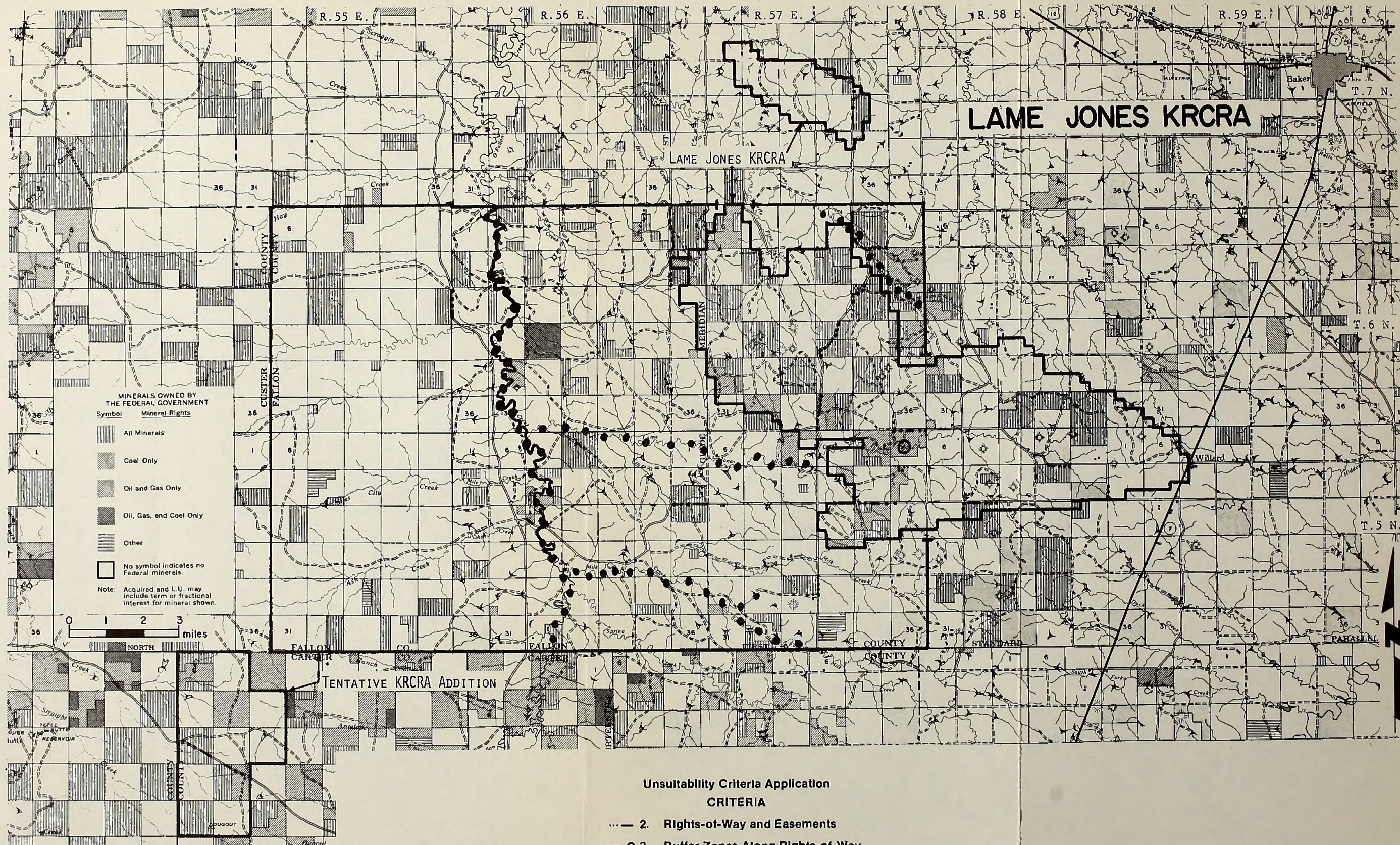
Areas preliminarily identified as alluvial valley floors (AVFs) have met both the geomorphic and water availability characteristics outlined in Part I of the August 15, 1978, draft guidelines provided by the Office of Surface Mining. Part I is intended to distinguish areas clearly not AVFs from those where further study may confirm identification of AVFs. Federal lands outside of the AVF's which, if mined, would contribute to the disruption of water systems supplying the AVFs, were not considered at this time. Sufficient data were available to preliminarily identify AVFs, however, due to the lack of detailed studies and final AVF guidelines, no areas were excluded. More detailed analysis to determine final AVFs and contributing areas will be done during activity planning and prior to approval of a permit.

Preliminarily identified AVFs in the Lame Jones KRCRA are found along O'Fallon Creek and three of its tributaries. Approximately 12 miles along O'Fallon Creek has been identified as an AVF, with 2 miles of this occurring over federal minerals. AVFs have also been identified along the tributaries of Lame Jones Creek, Milk Creek and Pine Creek. Approximately 4.5 miles of these AVFs are located over federal minerals.

Multiple Use Resource Conflicts Lame Jones KRCRA

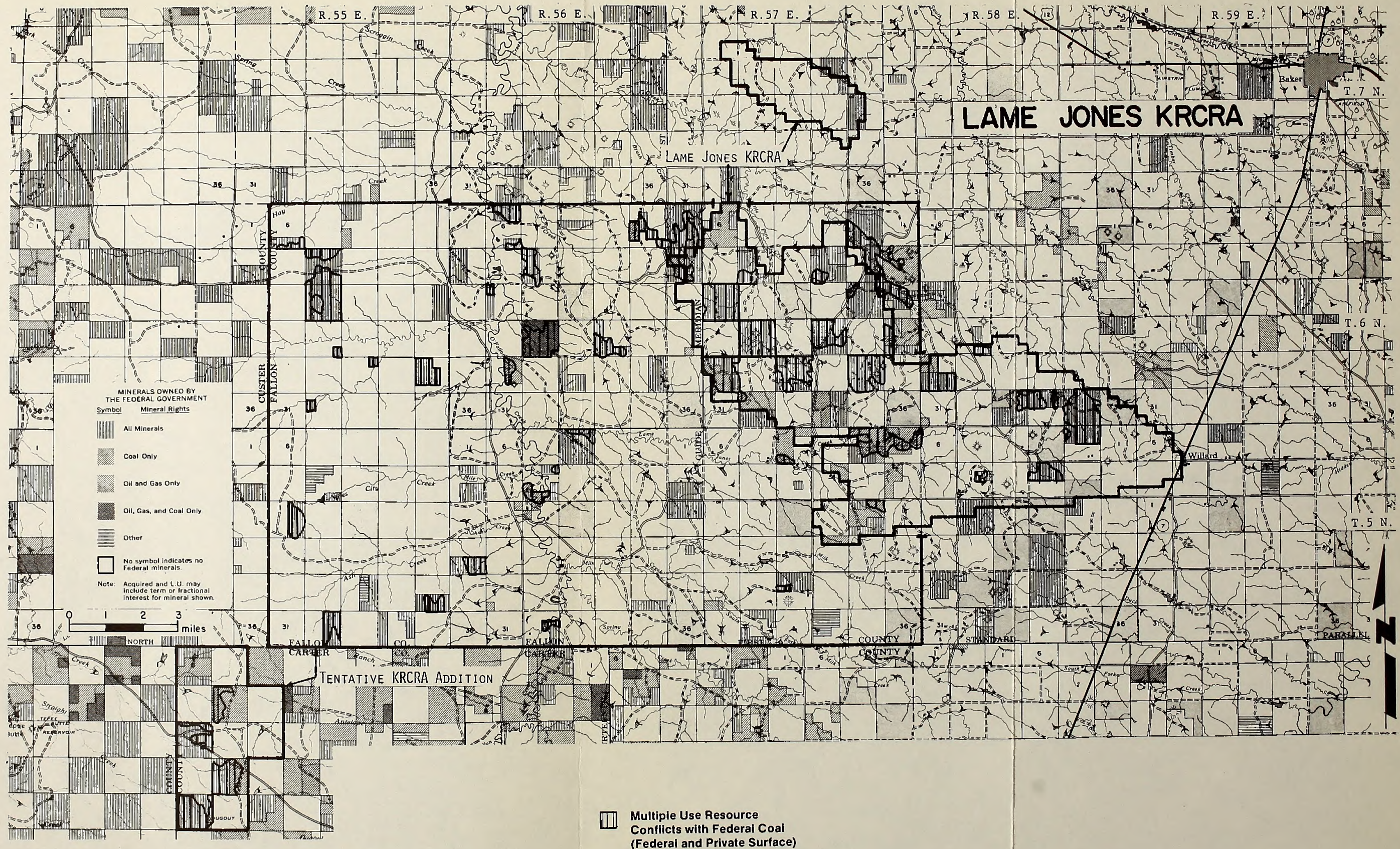
Map 24 shows areas of multiple use resource conflicts with areas of federal coal. As noted in Section II.B.1.e, the District Manager may use this information in establishing a priority for defining areas as desirable or undesirable for coal leasing.





Unsuitability Criteria Application CRITERIA

- 2. Rights-of-Way and Easements
- ,O 3. Buffer Zones Along Rights-of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings
- ~ 16. Floodplains
- 19. Preliminary Alluvial Valley Floors



CARLYLE KRCRA

SURFACE OWNER CONSULTATION AND RESPONSE ANALYSIS

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

District <u> Miles City </u>	District Manager <u> Ray Brubaker </u>
Resource Area <u> Big Dry </u>	Resource Area Manager <u> Don Nelson </u>
Planning Unit <u> Baker </u> # <u> 16 </u>	DO Planning Coord. <u> Dwight Conley </u>
Coal Field or Area <u> Carlyle KRCRA </u>	SO Planning Coord. <u> Rob McWhorter </u>
Date letters sent to surface owners: <u> Jan. 19, 1981 </u>	
Date of this analysis: <u> March 11, 1981 </u>	

II. OWNERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Surface owners consulted identified through county courthouse records:	<u>52</u>
Total acres in parcels described in letters:	<u>25,404</u>
Number of known unqualified surface owners:	<u>1</u>
Acres owned by known unqualified owners:	<u>1.9</u> %
Number of qualified surface owners:	<u>360</u>
Acres owned by qualified surface owners:	<u>1.4</u> %
Surface owners with outstanding surface leases:	<u>51</u>
Acres covered by outstanding surface leases:	<u>98.1</u> %
	<u>25,044</u>
	<u>98.6</u> %
	<u>3</u>
	<u>5.8</u> %
	<u>710</u>
	<u>2.8</u> %

III.* RESPONSE ANALYSIS OF QUALIFIED SURFACE OWNERS

Total responses received from qualified surface owners:	<u>31</u>	<u>60.8</u> %
Number of surface owners against leasing:	<u>8</u>	<u>15.7</u> %
Acres owned by surface owners against leasing:	<u>3,911</u>	<u>15.7</u> %
Number of surface owners who favor leasing:	<u>7</u>	<u>13.7</u> %
Acres owned by surface owners who favor leasing:	<u>1,438</u>	<u>5.8</u> %
Number of surface owners who are undecided on leasing:	<u>13</u>	<u>25.5</u> %
Acres owned by surface owners who are undecided:	<u>6,265</u>	<u>25.2</u> %
Number of surface owners who did not respond:	<u>20</u>	<u>39.2</u> %
Acres owned by surface owners who did not respond:	<u>12,720</u>	<u>50.8</u> %
Number of surface owners who have a split preference:	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> %

Acres of land with a split preference are included in the appropriate column (i.e., favor, oppose or undecided).

* Values given are for qualified surface owners overlying federal minerals

NOTE: Qualifications of surface owners were not formally adjudicated by the BLM. Each surface owner was asked to qualify or disqualify himself based on information supplied in the surface owner consultation letter which each surface owner received.

Application of Unsuitability Criteria Carlyle KRCRA

Criteria found not to apply to the KRCRA were 1,4,5,6,8,16,17,18, and 20. Those which applied to the KRCRA are as follows and illustrated on Map 26.

Criterion 2: Rights-of-Way and Easements

In the Carlyle KRCRA, road rights-of-way occur over 1.75 miles of federal surface including 0.5 mile of State Highway 7, with the remaining rights-of-way being county roads. Totals of 21 acres and 0.2 million tons* of coal were eliminated from further consideration by this criteria.

*Estimate is speculative because of a lack of coal data.

Exception

No exception was applied at this time. Any exception applied would require formal approval of all involved parties in the right-of-way. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

Criterion 3: Buffer Zones Along Rights-of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings

Twenty occupied dwellings and 52.75 miles of public road were identified in the KRCRA over federal minerals. The dwellings with a buffer zone of 300 feet around them eliminated 130 acres containing 1.0 million tons* of coal. The 52.75 miles of road right-of-way and the buffer zone on either side eliminated an additional 1899 acres and 15.3 million tons* of coal. A buffer along 5.5 miles of State Highway 7 which runs along the western edge of the KRCRA.

*Estimates speculative because of a lack of coal data

Exception

No exception can be applied at this time to the dwellings or buffer zones along the rights-of-way. Any exception applied would require formal agreement by all involved parties. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

Criterion 7: Historic Lands and Sites

Adequate archaeological inventories have not been accomplished in this KRCRA. Cultural resources which have been identified in the area are a stage stop on the Ft. Keogh to Bismarck trail, remnants of that trail and remnants of the Ekalaka to Wibaux trail.

Until adequate archaeological inventory is achieved and a determination of National Register eligibility is made, all areas of this KRCRA will be considered suitable for leasing pending further study.

Criteria 9 through 15: Wildlife Related

The seven criteria dealing with wildlife were not applied to this KRCRA as site specific baseline inventory adequate to meet the requirements of the coal unsuitability criteria is not available at this time. Only broad species distribution patterns are currently known for this area. Baseline inventories and the application of the unsuitability criteria will have to be accomplished prior to any lease sale EIS.

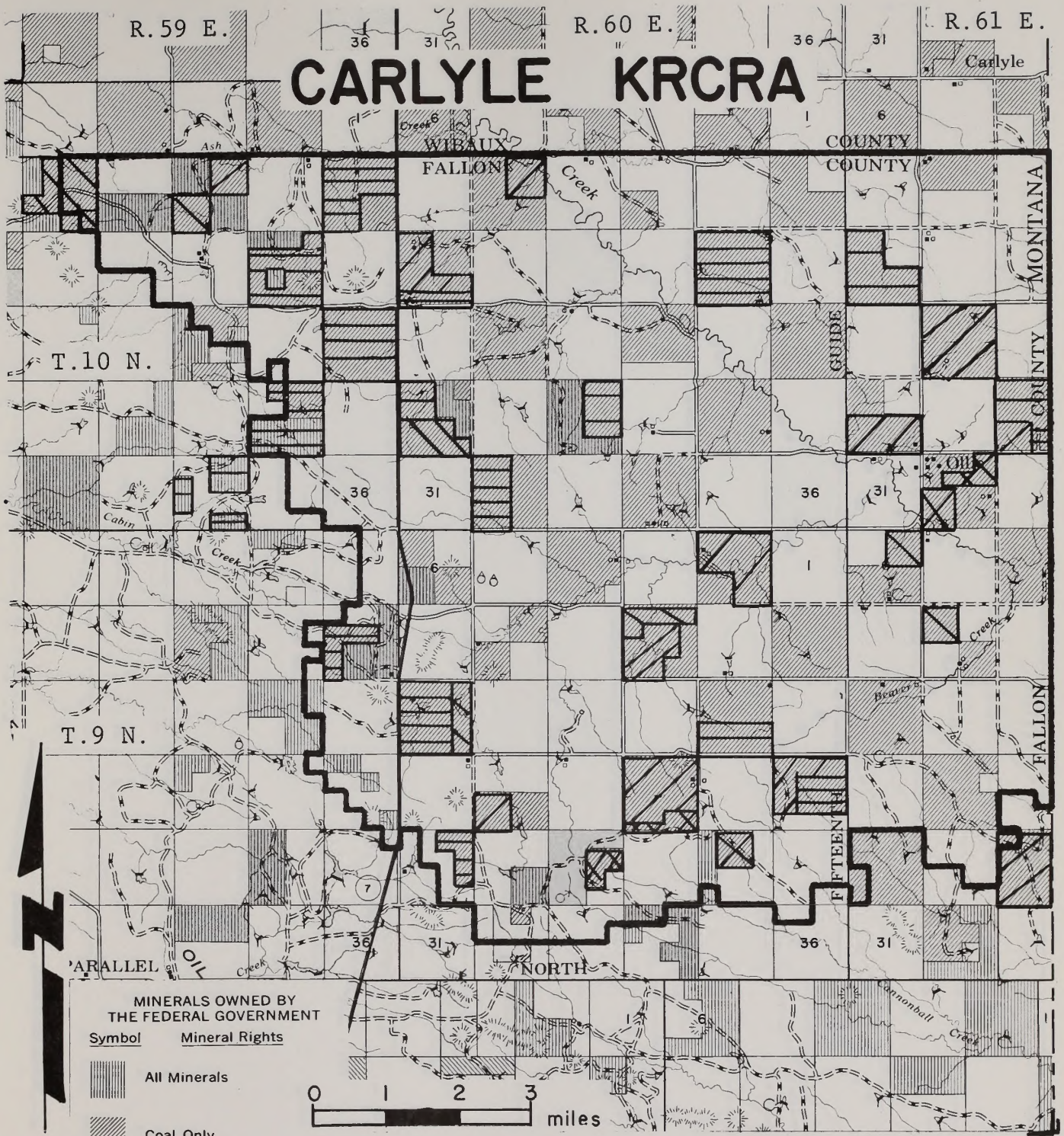
Criterion 19: Alluvial Valley Floors

Areas preliminarily identified as alluvial valley floors (AVFs) have met both the geomorphic and water availability characteristics outlined in Part I of the August 15, 1978, draft guidelines provided by the Office of Surface Mining. Part I is intended to distinguish areas clearly not AVFs from those where further study may confirm identification of AVFs. Federal lands outside of the AVFs which, if mined, would contribute to the disruption of water systems supplying the AVFs, were not considered at this time. Sufficient data were available to preliminarily identify AVFs, however, due to the lack of detailed studies and final AVF guidelines, no areas were excluded from the lease recommendation area. More detailed analysis to determine final AVFs and contributing areas will be done during activity planning and prior to approval of a permit.

A preliminarily identified AVF in the Carlyle KRCRA lies along Beaver Creek and it's headwaters. Approximately 19 miles along this drainage meet the preliminary AVF guidelines. Of this distance, 6.5 miles of the AVF occurs over federal minerals.

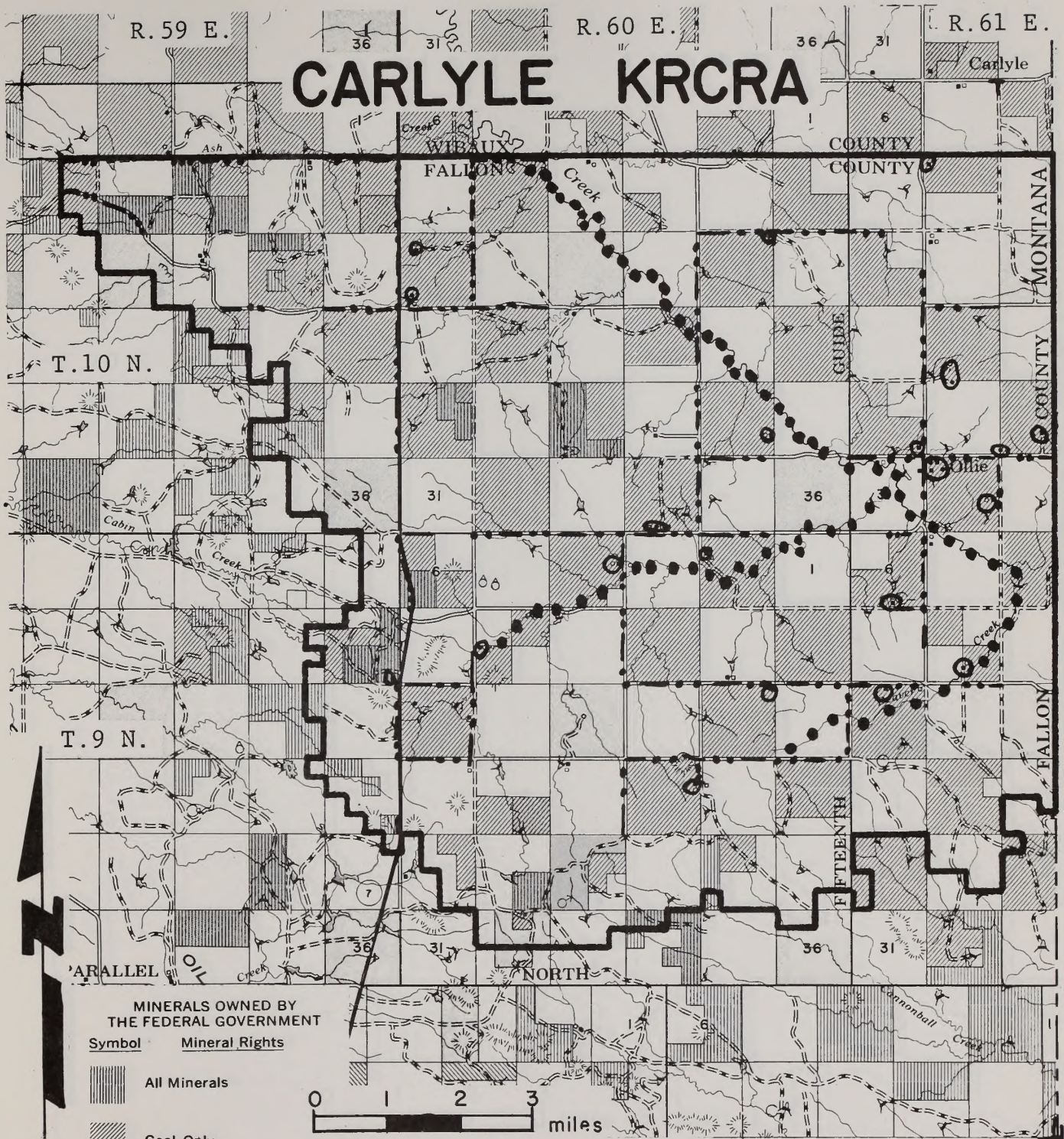
Multiple Use Resource Conflicts Carlyle KRCRA

Map 27 shows areas of multiple use resource conflicts with areas of federal coal. Section II.B.1.e noted the District Manager may use this information to establish a priority for defining areas as desirable or undesirable for coal leasing.



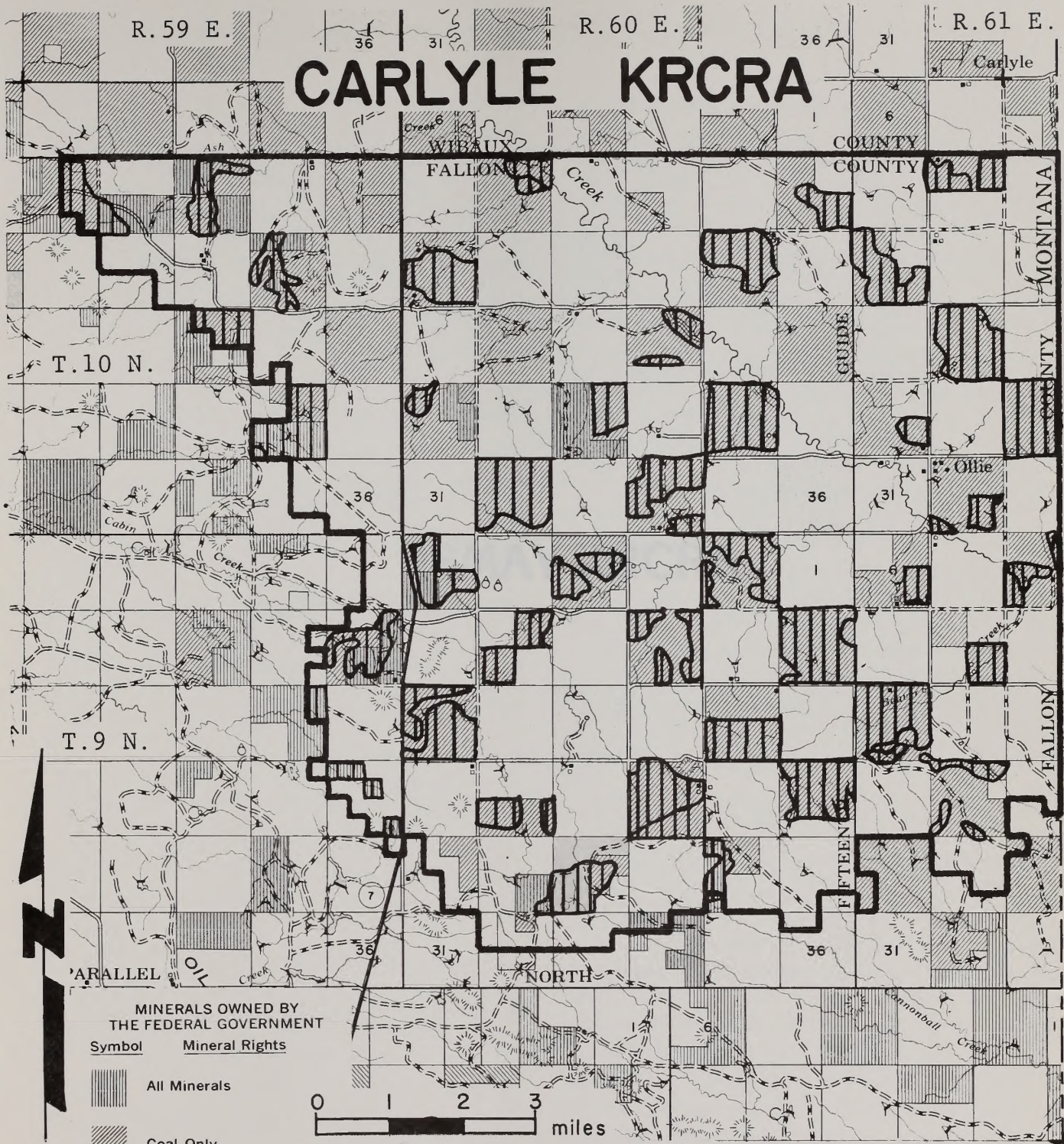
Surface Owner Consultation

	For Leasing
	Against Leasing
	Undecided
	Surface Leased
	Unqualified Owner
	No Response



Unsuitability Criteria Application CRITERIA

- ... — 2. Rights-of-Way and Easements
- ... —, o 3. Buffer Zones Along Rights-of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings
- 19. Preliminary Alluvial Valley Floors



Note: Acquired and L.U. may include term or fractional interest for mineral shown.

ISMAI KRCRA

SURFACE OWNER CONSULTATION AND RESPONSE ANALYSIS

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

District <u> Miles City </u>	District Manager <u> Ray Brubaker </u>
Resource Area <u> Big Dry </u>	Resource Area Manager <u> Don Nelson </u>
Planning Unit <u> Baker </u> # <u> 16 </u>	DO Planning Coord. <u> Dwight Conley </u>
Coal Field or Area <u> Ismay KRCRA </u>	SO Planning Coord. <u> Rob McWhorter </u>
Date letters sent to surface owners: <u> Jan. 19, 1981 </u>	
Date of this analysis: <u> March 12, 1981 </u>	

II. OWNERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Surface owners consulted identified through county courthouse records:	<u>73</u>	
Total acres in parcels described in letters:	<u>48,808</u>	
Number of known unqualified surface owners:	<u>2</u>	<u>2.7</u> %
Acres owned by known unqualified owners:	<u>4,058</u>	<u>8.3</u> %
Number of qualified surface owners:	<u>71</u>	<u>97.3</u> %
Acres owned by qualified surface owners:	<u>44,750</u>	<u>91.7</u> %
Surface owners with outstanding surface leases:	<u>3</u>	<u>4.0</u> %
Acres covered by outstanding surface leases:	<u>973</u>	<u>2.0</u> %

III.* RESPONSE ANALYSIS OF QUALIFIED SURFACE OWNERS

Total responses received from qualified surface owners:	<u>49</u>	<u>69.0</u> %
Number of surface owners against leasing:	<u>9</u>	<u>12.7</u> %
Acres owned by surface owners against leasing:	<u>7,852</u>	<u>17.6</u> %
Number of surface owners who favor leasing:	<u>18</u>	<u>25.4</u> %
Acres owned by surface owners who favor leasing:	<u>14,808</u>	<u>33.1</u> %
Number of surface owners who are undecided on leasing:	<u>20</u>	<u>28.2</u> %
Acres owned by surface owners who are undecided:	<u>10,769</u>	<u>24.1</u> %
Number of surface owners who did not respond:	<u>19</u>	<u>26.8</u> %
Acres owned by surface owners who did not respond:	<u>10,348</u>	<u>23.1</u> %
Number of surface owners who have a split preference:	<u>2</u>	<u>2.8</u> %

Acres of land with a split preference are included in the appropriate column (i.e., favor, oppose or undecided).

* Values given are for qualified surface owners overlying federal minerals

NOTE: Qualifications of surface owners were not formally adjudicated by the BLM. Each surface owner was asked to qualify or disqualify himself based on information supplied in the surface owner consultation letter which each surface owner received.

Application of Unsuitability Criteria Ismay KRCRA

Criteria found not to apply to the KRCRA were 1,4,5,6,8,17,18, and 20. Those which applied are as follows and illustrated on Map 29.

Criterion 2: Rights-of-Way and Easements

In the Ismay KRCRA, road rights-of-way occur over 30 miles of federal surface. One mile is U.S. Highway 12 with the remaining rights-of-way being county roads. Totals of 360 acres and 3.2 million tons* of coal were eliminated from further consideration by this criteria. The Milwaukee Railroad right-of-way is located over 1¾ miles of federal surface. This eliminated another 43 acres and 0.4 million tons of coal.

*Estimate speculative because of a lack of coal data

Exception

No exception was applied at this time. Any exception applied would require formal approval of all involved parties in the right-of way. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

Criterion 3: Buffer Zones Along Rights-of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings

Nine occupied dwellings and 65 miles of public road were identified in the KRCRA over federal minerals. The dwellings with a buffer zone of 300 feet around them, eliminated 58.5 acres containing 0.5 million tons* of coal. The 65 miles of road right-of-way and the buffer zone on either side eliminated an additional 2,340 acres and 20.5 million tons* of coal. Six miles of this right-of-way is located along U.S. Highway 12 which passes through the southern edge of the KRCRA. The townsite of Ismay is located in the KRCRA, but no exclusions were made as no federal minerals occur.

Exception

No exception can be applied at this time to the dwellings or buffer zones along the rights-of-way. Any exception applied would require formal agreement by all involved parties. The exception may be applied at a later date provided all parties involved agree.

*Estimate speculative because of a lack of coal data

Criterion 7: Historic Lands and Sites

Adequate archaeological inventories have not been accomplished in this KRCRA. Cultural resources which have been identified in the area are a campsite from Custer's expedition in 1876, the site of the Maxwell Skirmish in December of 1877, remnants of the Ft. Keogh to Bismarck Trail and a stage station near Ismay along that trail. Until adequate archaeological inventory is achieved and a determination of National Register eligibility is made, all areas of this KRCRA will be considered suitable for leasing pending further study.

Criteria 9 through 15: Wildlife Related

The seven criteria dealing with wildlife were only partially applied as baseline inventory adequate to meet the requirements of the coal unsuitability criteria were not available. One extrapolation study site occurred in the KRCRA. From work done on this site, 9 sharp-tailed grouse arenas were identified, 8 of which were located over federal minerals. These arenas along with a 1/2 mile buffer zone were excluded until complete data is available. This eliminated 2,180 acres and 19.1 million tons of coal. This exclusion may be changed when complete data is available to determine bird distribution patterns. Broad winter range designations have been made for deer, antelope and sage grouse, but most crucial areas have not been determined. Site specific baseline inventories and the application of the criteria will have to be accomplished prior to any lease sale EIS. All areas are suitable pending further study.

Criterion 16: Floodplains

A 100-year floodplain has been identified by the U.S. Geological Survey along O'Fallon Creek and Sandstone Creek. Approximately 13 miles of O'Fallon Creek and 7 miles of Sandstone fell within this designation. Of these delineations, approximately 7.5 miles of O'Fallon Creek, and 3.5 miles of Sandstone Creek occur over federal surface and/or federal minerals. Until determination of a substantial threat of loss of life or property, no area will be declared unsuitable under this criteria.

Criterion 19: Alluvial Valley Floors

Areas preliminarily identified as alluvial valley floors (AVFs) have met both the geomorphic and water availability characteristics outlined in Part I of the August 15, 1978, draft guidelines provided by the Office of Surface Mining. Part I is intended to distinguish areas clearly not AVFs from those where further study may confirm identification of AVFs. Federal lands outside of the AVFs which, if mined, would contribute to the disruption of water systems supplying the AVFs, were not considered at this time. Sufficient data were available to preliminarily identify AVFs, however, due to the lack of detailed studies and final AVF guidelines, no areas were excluded from the lease recommendation area. More detailed analysis to determine final AVFs and contributing areas will be done during activity planning and prior to approval of a permit.

Preliminarily identified AVFs in the Ismay KRCRA are O'Fallon Creek, South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, Sandstone Creek and the North Fork of Pennel Creek. Of these creeks, approximately 13 miles of O'Fallon Creek (7.5 miles federal), 6 miles of Cottonwood Creek (4 miles federal), 1.5 miles of Sandstone Creek (0.5 miles federal) and 5 miles of Pennel Creek (3 miles federal) met the preliminary AVF guidelines.

Multiple Use Resource Conflicts Ismay KRCRA

Map 30 shows areas of multiple use conflicts with areas of federal coal. Section II.B.1.e noted the District Manager may use this information to establish a priority for defining areas as desirable or undesirable for coal leasing.

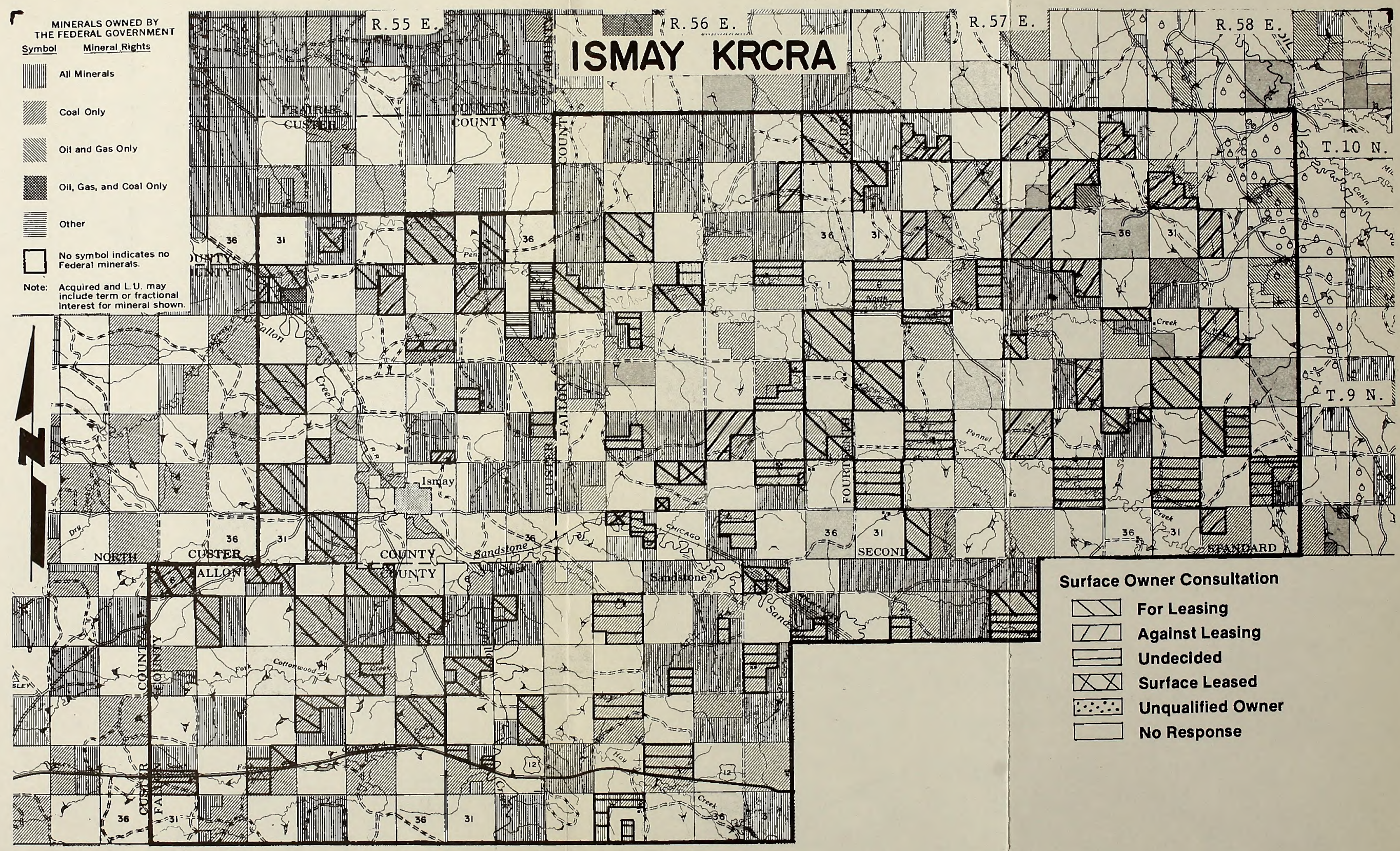
MINERALS OWNED BY
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Symbol Mineral Rights

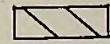
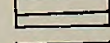
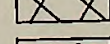
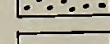
-  All Minerals
-  Coal Only
-  Oil and Gas Only
-  Oil, Gas, and Coal Only
-  Other
-  No symbol indicates no Federal minerals.

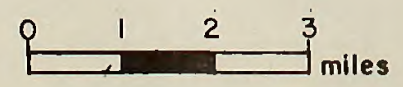
Note: Acquired and L.U. may include term or fractional interest for mineral shown.

ISMAY KRCRA



Surface Owner Consultation

-  For Leasing
-  Against Leasing
-  Undecided
-  Surface Leased
-  Unqualified Owner
-  No Response



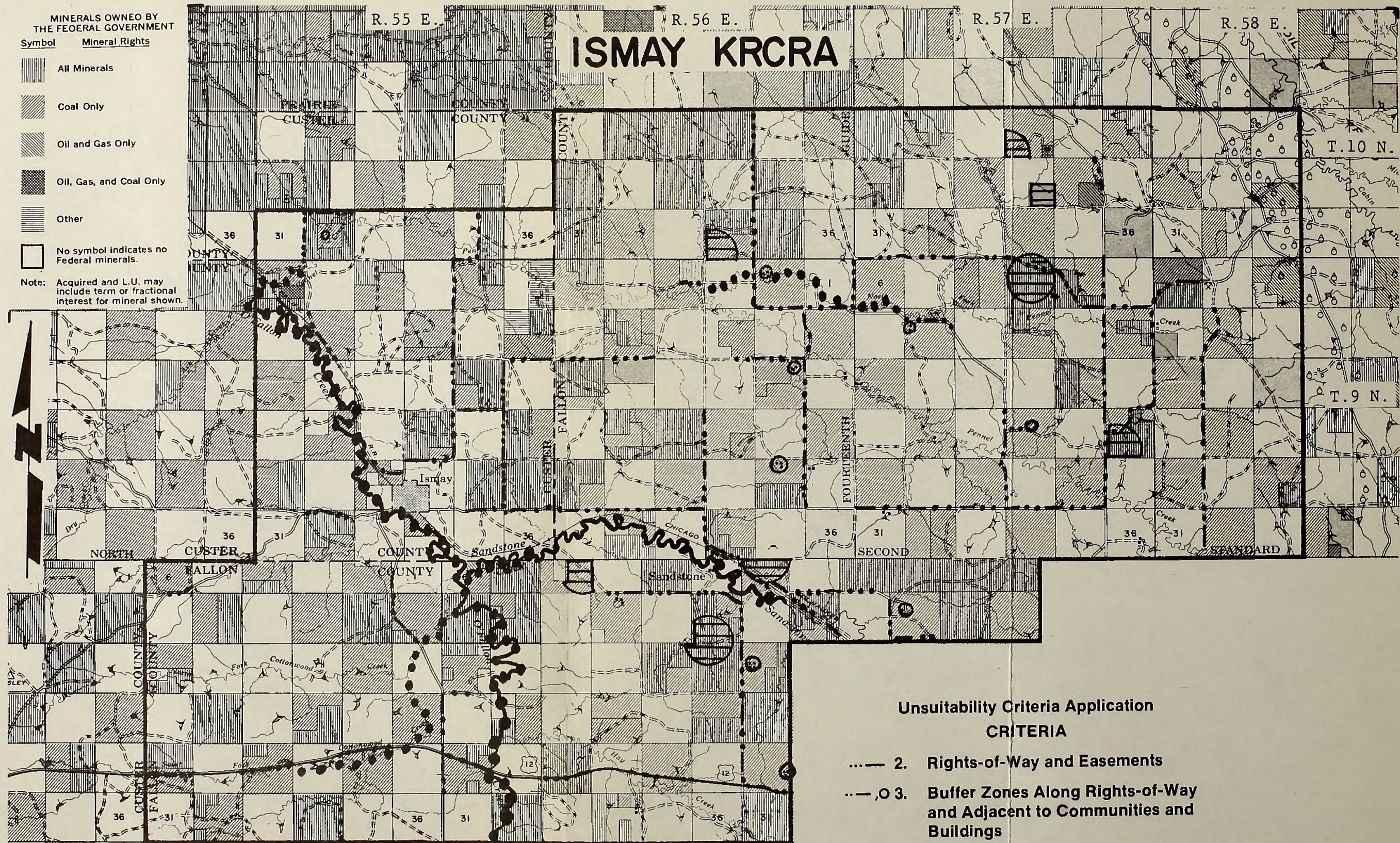
MINERALS OWNED BY
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Symbol	Mineral Rights
	All Minerals
	Coal Only
	Oil and Gas Only
	Oil, Gas, and Coal Only
	Other

No symbol indicates no Federal minerals.

Note: Acquired and L.U. may include term or fractional interest for mineral shown.

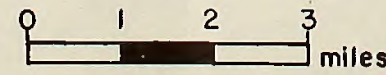
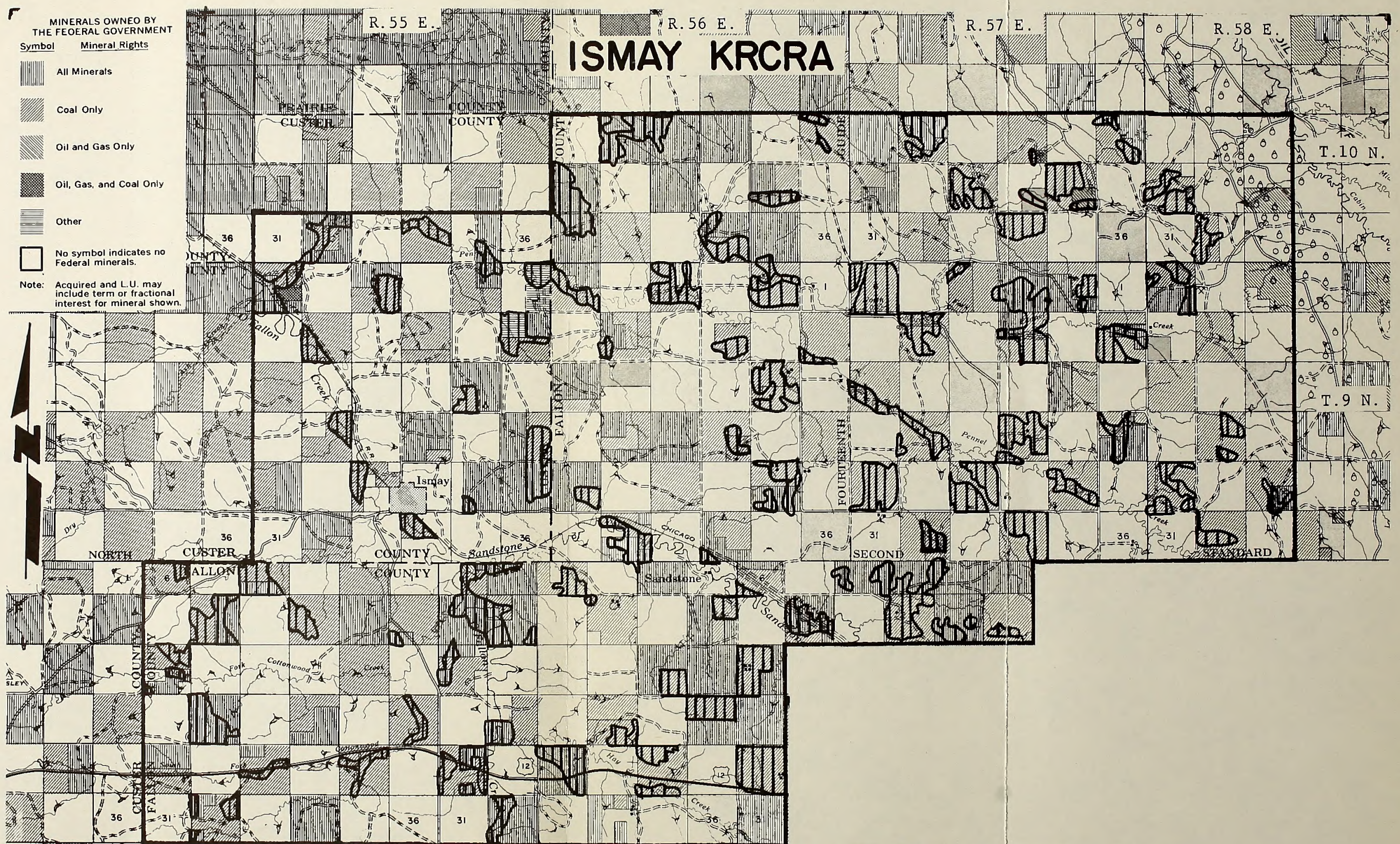
ISMAY KRCRA



Unsuitability Criteria Application CRITERIA

- 2. Rights-of-Way and Easements
- , O 3. Buffer Zones Along Rights-of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings
- ⊖ 15. State Fish and Wildlife
- ~ 16. Floodplains
- 19. Preliminary Alluvial Valley Floors

0 1 2 3 miles



MAP 30

Multiple Use Resource
Conflicts with Federal Coal
(Federal and Private Surface)

Multiple Use Recommendation: M-1.2

Request that USGS develop coal development potential and tonnage estimates for the following existing and proposed KRCRAs: Knowlton, Custer Creek, Circle (including extensions), Lame Jones, Carlyle, Ismay, and Lame Jones Extension.

Provide for evaluation/exploration within the KRCRAs except in: (1) identified raptor nesting areas from March 1 to June 1, (2) sharptail/sage grouse leks and nesting areas from March 1 to June 1, (3) prairie dog towns, and (4) endangered species habitats.

No disturbance will be allowed on frail or highly erodible soils during wet periods nor on slopes in excess of 20%, without written permission from the District Manager.

Disturbance in VRM Class I and II areas, WSA's, and forested areas will be handled on a case by case basis with appropriate stipulations. Cultural resource protection will also be determined on a case by case basis.

Rationale: M-1.2

Strippable coal reserves are inferred to lie within the federal subsurface of these areas. Not enough information is presently available to precisely determine the coal development potential and tonnage.

Multiple Use Recommendation: M-1.3 and M-1.4

Request that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) determine the coal development potential of the Kinsey and Terry deposits, to see if they can be classified as Known Recoverable Coal Resource Areas (KRCRAs). Provide for the issuance of coal exploration licenses under existing policy guidelines and regulations in these locations and all other lands of this MFP area except: (1) those areas containing identified raptor nesting areas from March 1 to June 1, (2) sharptail/sage grouse leks and nesting areas from March 1 to June 1, (3) prairie dog towns, and (4) endangered species habitats.

Cultural resource inventories will be conducted on a case by case basis. No disturbance will be allowed on frail lands and high erosion areas during wet soil periods nor on slopes in excess of 20% without written permission from the District Manager.

Disturbance in VRM Class I and II areas, WSAs, forest areas, and disturbed forest areas will be handled on a case by case basis with appropriate stipulations.

Rationale: (M-1.3 and 1.4)

Strippable coal reserves are thought to lie within the federal subsurface over much of the MFP area. More data are needed to accurately evaluate the quantity and quality of coal resources within and outside KRCRAs.

Multiple Use Recommendation: M-1.5

If requested, issue licenses to mine coal for domestic needs for all lands in the MFP area acceptable for further consideration for coal development except: (1) those identified raptor nesting areas from March 1 to June 1, (2) sharptail/sage grouse leks and nesting areas from March 1 to June 1, (3) prairie dog towns, and (4) endangered species habitats.

No disturbance will be allowed on frail or highly erodible soils during wet periods nor on slopes in excess of 20%, without written permission from the District Manager.

Cultural resource inventories will be conducted prior to surface disturbance.

Rationale: M-1.5

A license to mine may be issued to any individual, association, municipality, charitable organization or relief agency for the nonprofit mining and disposal of coal for household use only, under the guidelines set forth in 43 CFR 3440.

Multiple Use Recommendation: M-1.6

Continue to process the Meadowlark Farms (AMAX) Preference Right Lease Application, but withhold final decision to lease until completion of Wilderness E.I.S.

If the Terry Badlands is recommended for inclusion in the wilderness system, then provide the holder of the PRLA the possibility of exchange under provisions of 43 CFR 3430.5-4.

If the Terry Badlands is not recommended for inclusion in the wilderness system, issue the lease if it meets the requirements of 43 CFR 3430.6.

Rationale: M-1.6

Exchanging the lease area for one outside the wilderness area would preserve the wilderness character of the Badlands. If the Terry Badlands is not recommended for inclusion in the wilderness system, then leasing would not conflict.

Minerals, Other Than Coal

There are ten producing oil fields within this MFP area with a total cumulative production of about 249 million barrels. Production has slightly increased in the last few years as exploration has become more intensive in the Williston Basin with a search for oil in deeper strata and oil price decontrol. Two fields produce only natural gas. In addition, four of the oil fields produce associated gas. All oil and gas fields in the MFP area lie along the trends of the Cedar Creek and Plevna anticlines in Fallon and Prairie Counties.

Sand and gravel deposits are plentiful within this MFP area, occurring mainly as terrace gravels on benches above the Yellowstone and Powder River valleys, and as alluvium in the major valleys. Scoria (clinker) is common within the Fort Union Formation, which is exposed over most of the planning area.

Some bentonite is exposed within the Pierre Shale in the core of the Cedar Creek Anticline, but no commercial production nor mining claims are known.

Vertebrate fossils occur in strata of the Hell Creek Formation, which is exposed along the flanks of the Cedar Creek Anticline.

Map References

Resource Maps 31 and 32 identify location of specific recommendations within the MFP area. Recommendation areas not shown are considered to be area-wide unless otherwise noted in the text.

Objective: 2

Make Available for oil and gas exploration all federally administered lands within this MFP area.

Multiple Use Recommendation: M-2.1

Allow oil and gas exploration and development on all available lands in this MFP area subject to the mitigating measures recommended in the Miles City District's Environmental Assessment on the Oil and Gas Leasing Program, February 1980.

Rationale: M-2.1

The search for domestic sources of oil and gas has increased markedly as deregulation of the industry has allowed prices to rise to near world market level. This deregulation has occurred in an effort to stimulate domestic production and reduce national reliance on unstable sources of foreign oil. Large areas of high oil and gas potential, especially in deeper strata, are still to be better evaluated within this MFP area. These energy sources should be fully explored and developed wherever possible.

Objective: 3

Make available sources of sand, gravel, scoria, and rip-rap to meet the requirements of road construction and maintenance and for the building construction industry. Maps 31, 32 and 33 show areas known to be sand, gravel, and scoria resource deposits in the MFP area.

Multiple Use Recommendation: M-3.1

Allow for the sale, issuance of free use permits, and establishment of community pits for sand, gravel, scoria and rip-rap, as necessary, in all lands of this MFP area except: (1) raptor nesting areas from March 1 to June 1, (2) sharp-tail/sage grouse leks and nesting areas from March 1 to June 1, (3) prairie dog towns, and (4) endangered species habitats.

No disturbance will be allowed on frail lands and areas of high erosion during wet periods nor on slopes in excess of 20% without written permission from the District Manager. Cultural resource inventories will be conducted prior to surface disturbance.

In order to minimize disturbance in VRM Class I and II areas, wilderness study areas, and potential recreation areas, applications will be handled on a case by case basis with appropriate stipulations.

Rationale: M-3.1

Increased demand is forecasted for sand, gravel, scoria, and crushed rock for road construction and maintenance, and for building construction. Potential future coal development in the area would require large amounts of sand, gravel and scoria for road, plant, and housing facilities construction. Potential oil and gas development would require these materials for drill pad and road construction.

Objective: 4

Generally maintain the availability of all federal lands within the planning area for minerals development or exchange until the mineral resources can be properly evaluated.

Multiple Use Recommendation: M-4.1

Conduct an investigation of mineral potential before disposition or withdrawal of any federal land.

Rationale: M-4.1

A mineral investigation is required under BLM Manual Section 3911.11A, and Sections 204 and 209 of FLPMA, prior to disposition or withdrawal of any federal land.

PALEONTOLOGY

Objective: 1

Identify and protect areas of paleontological significance.

Multiple Use Recommendation: PL-1.1

Require paleontological surveys prior to any significant surface disturbance in areas where Hell Creek or Lower Tullock strata are known or suspected to contain paleontological resources of significance.

Rationale: PL-1.1

Portions of the Hell Creek Formation and the lower part of the Tullock Member of the Fort Union Formation contain significant and unique dinosaur and early transitional small mammal fossils. Hell Creek strata exposed along the Cedar Creek Anticline have yielded dinosaur fossils. By requiring paleontological surveys prior to any significant surface disturbances, loss or destruction of these valuable resources can be minimized.

MINERALS



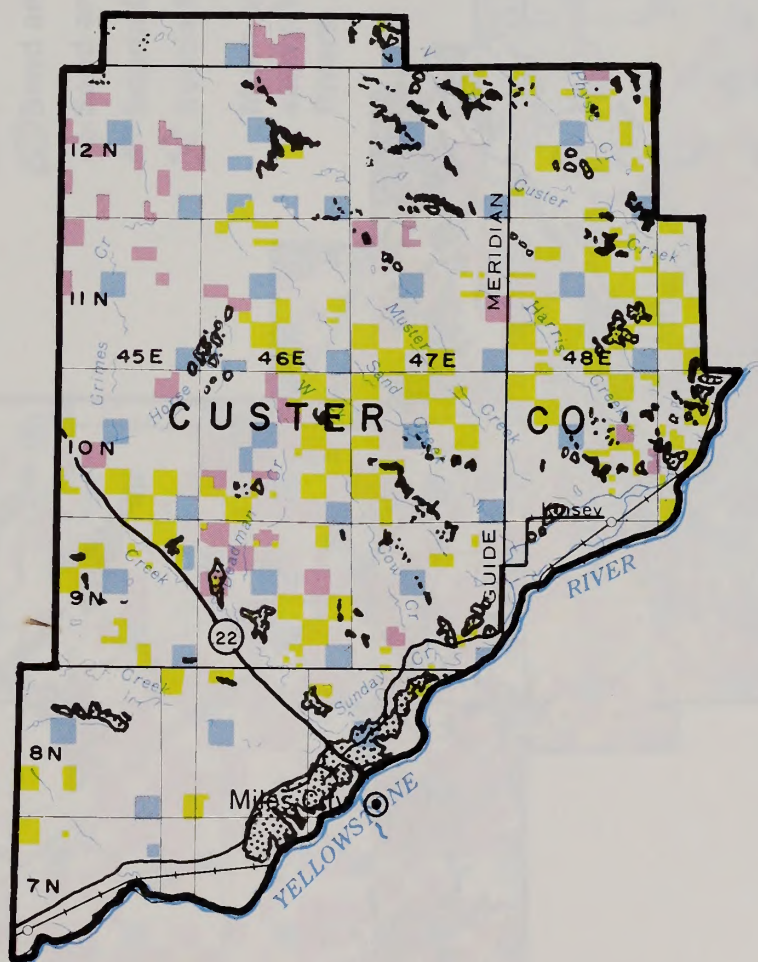
Sand and Gravel Terraces (3.1)



Scoria Deposits (3.1)

Much unmapped sand and gravel lies in valley floors of Yellowstone River and Sunday Creek

KINSEY PLANNING UNIT



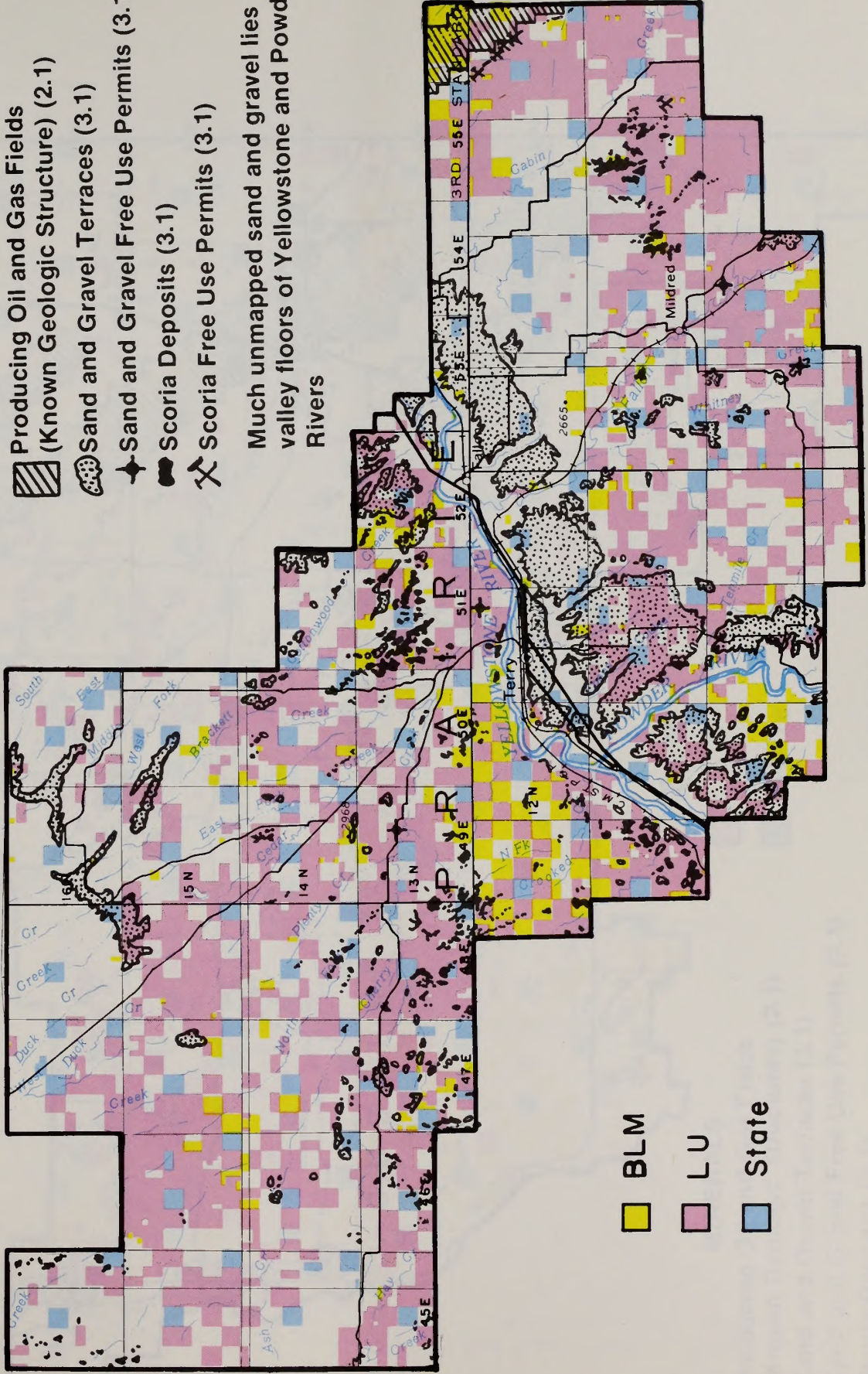
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- State

NORTH & SOUTH PRAIRIE PLANNING UNITS

MINERALS

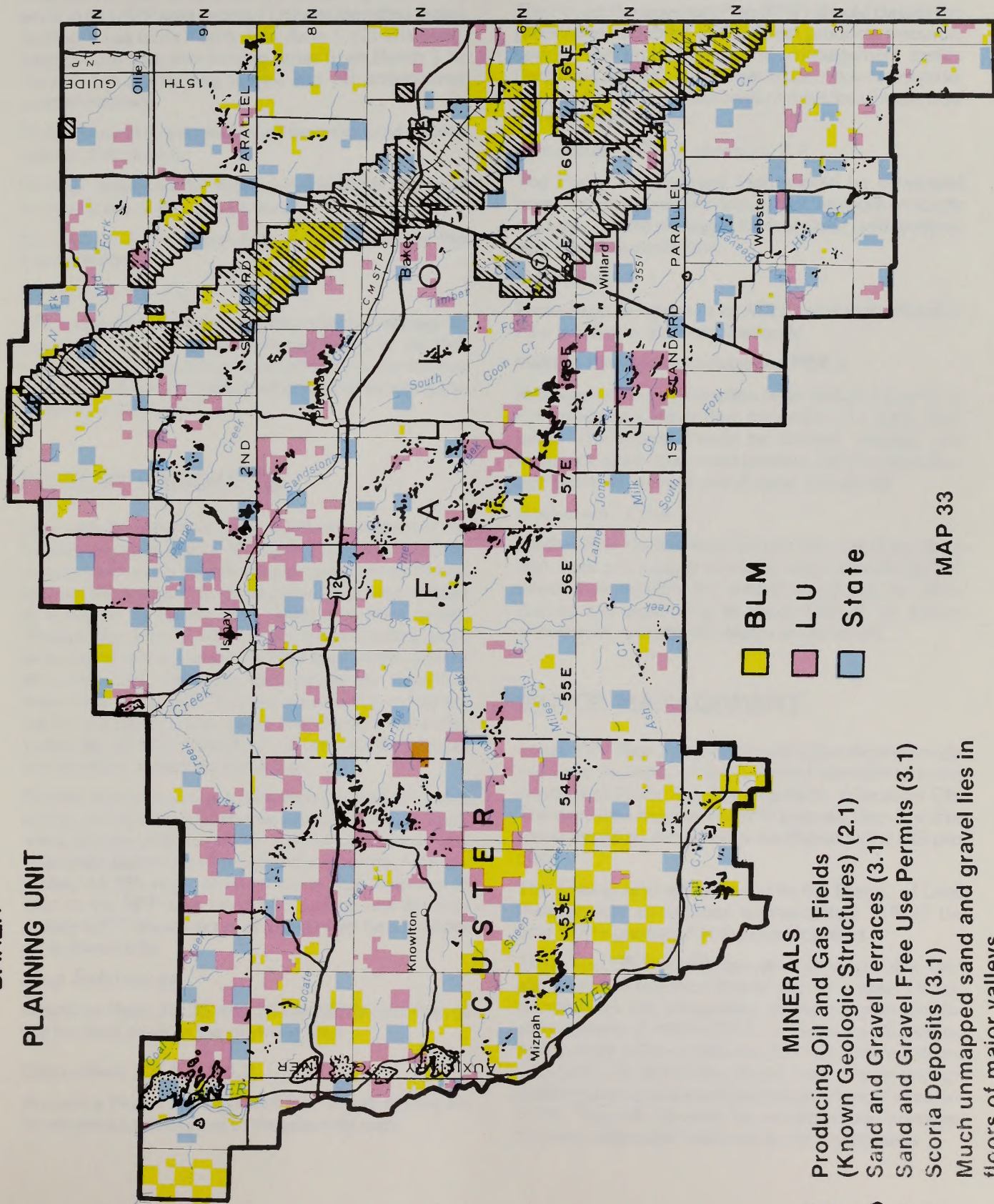
-  Producing Oil and Gas Fields (Known Geologic Structure) (2.1)
-  Sand and Gravel Terraces (3.1)
-  Sand and Gravel Free Use Permits (3.1)
-  Scoria Deposits (3.1)
-  Scoria Free Use Permits (3.1)

Much unmapped sand and gravel lies in valley floors of Yellowstone and Powder Rivers



BAKER

PLANNING UNIT



MINERALS

- Producing Oil and Gas Fields (Known Geologic Structures) (2.1)
- Sand and Gravel Terraces (3.1)
- Sand and Gravel Free Use Permits (3.1)
- Scoria Deposits (3.1)
- Much unmapped sand and gravel lies in floors of major valleys

BLM

LU

State

Multiple Use Recommendation: PL-1.2

Provide for the issuance of Antiquities Permits to universities, museums, and other scientific groups in all lands in this MFP area except, (1) those identified raptor nesting areas from March 1 to June 1, (2) sharptail/sage grouse leks and nesting areas from March 1 to June 1, (3) prairie dog towns, and (4) endangered species habitats.

Cultural resource inventories will be conducted prior to surface disturbance.

No disturbance will be allowed in frail lands and high erosion areas during wet periods.

Exceptions to the above may be authorized by the District Manager.

Rationale: PL-1.2

There is high potential for finding scientifically significant dinosaur and small mammal fossils in the Hell Creek Formation and lower part of the Tullock Member of the Fort Union Formation where exposed along the Cedar Creek Anticline.

FOREST PRODUCTS

Little specific data is available for the total extent of the forestry resource in this MFP area. Field examinations coupled with color infrared aerial photo interpretation indicate the resource exists and that it has been utilized to a degree to supply local ranch and farm needs. Though the area is not suitable for producing large amounts of sawlog timber, it does have isolated spots of commercial pine, especially around the Knowlton Area in the Baker P.U. The area does have good potential for supplying posts, poles and firewood and also serves as valuable habitat for certain wildlife species and provides watershed protection.

Forests (cottonwood, ash, box elder, willow, etc.) also occupy floodplains and alluvial fans of the major drainways, stream bottoms of the upland land forms, and headwalls and crests of major ridge systems. Approximately 44,325 acres of forest cover type is known to exist in the MFP area on public surface and approximately 4,970 known acres of forest cover type is under other ownership.

Map References

Resource Maps 34, 35 and 36 identify the location of the forested areas in the planning area.

Objectives 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,

Prepare a Forest Management Plan for all significant forest product resources in the planning area.

Multiple Use Recommendation: Includes F.P. 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2

The Forest Management Plan (FMP) should classify the production capability of the forest products resource, specify the protection needs, management needs (including access) and allowable use. Allow forest product use on a case by case basis to meet local needs until the FMP is completed.

Rationale: FP-1.1 through 7.2

The Forest Management Plan should be developed from intensive inventory data so that the forest products resource can be managed for sustained yield and provide resource protection.

Objective: 8

Protect and designate as an ACEC the stands of Limber Pine located in the Terry Badlands.

Multiple Use Recommendation: FP-8.1

Management on a protection basis should be given to the stands of Limber Pine located in the Terry Badlands. The stands should be located, mapped and inventoried as to their exact location, density, reproduction potential, general stand vigor, and extent.

Rationale: FP-8.1

Limber Pine (in this area) is near the end of its range and does not usually occur at lower elevations. Evidence indicates that the subject stand may be reproducing and expanding its range. Due to its unique occurrence, a protection status is warranted.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

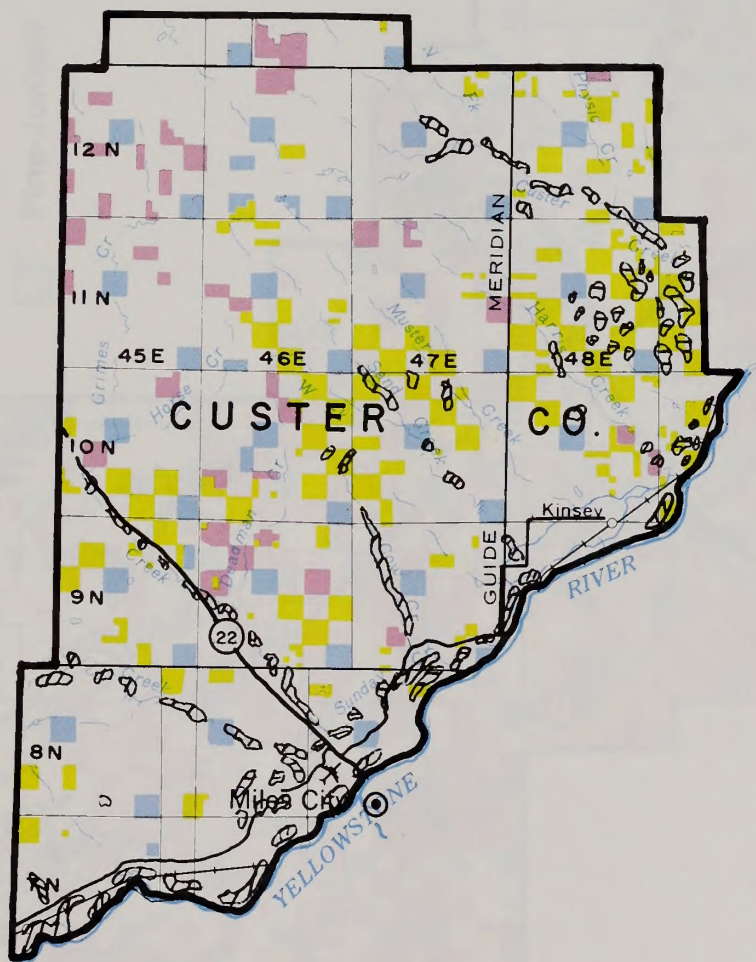
These MFP Step 2 vegetation allocation recommendations are the basis for the preferred alternatives being considered in the Big Dry Vegetative Allocation EIS. The decisions made in the MFP process, Step 3, will be made based on the analysis developed in the EIS process.

The grazing land administered by the Bureau of Land Management contributes approximately 21% of the total AUMs produced in the planning area.

There are 335 livestock operators grazing public land allotments in the New Prairie planning area. Of this number, 34 are designated as having potential for development of AMPs (RM 1.1). There are 28 existing AMPs which will be continued (RM 1.2). The remaining 273 (RM 1.3) allotments do not have a large enough public resource to warrant the development of intensive AMPs. They will, however, be monitored and managed to ensure the public resource is not deteriorated.

-  Broadleaves — Open Canopy
-  Broadleaves — Closed Canopy (3.1 - 3.3)
-  Pine-Juniper

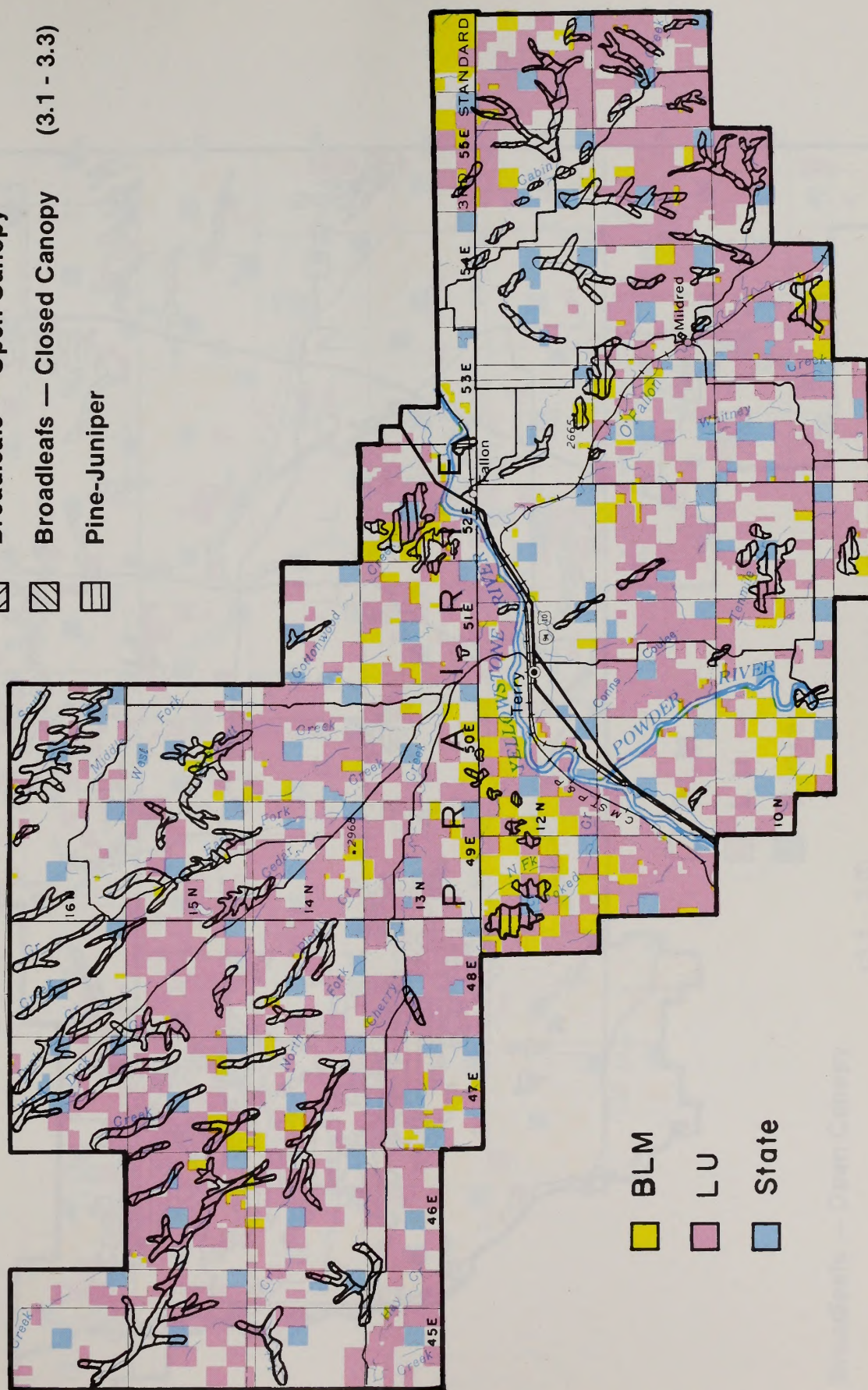
KINSEY PLANNING UNIT



-  BLM
-  LU
-  State

NORTH & SOUTH PRAIRIE PLANNING UNITS

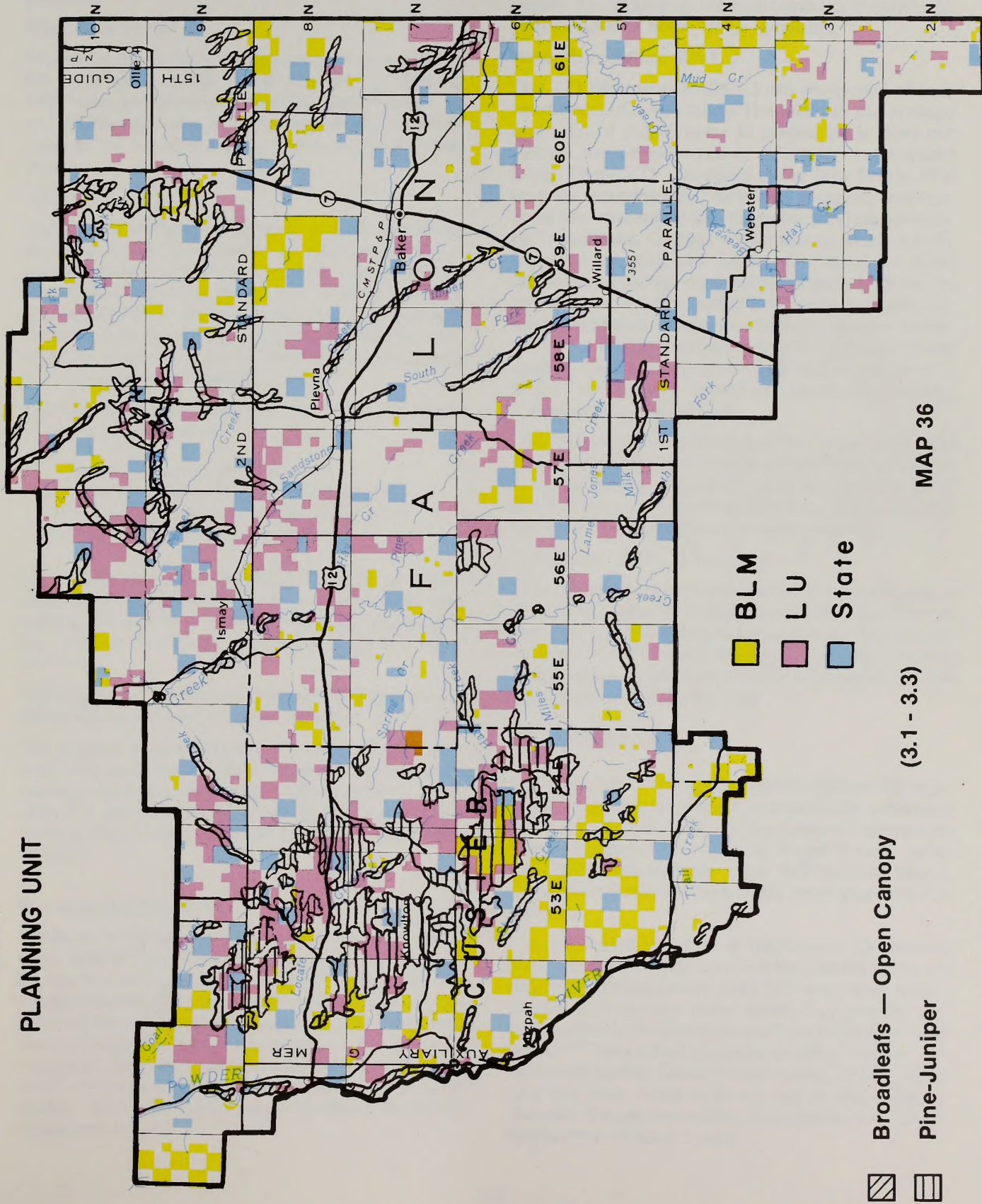
-  Broadleaves — Open Canopy
-  Broadleaves — Closed Canopy (3.1 - 3.3)
-  Pine-Juniper



MAP 35

BAKER

PLANNING UNIT



A resource survey was conducted on public land in the planning area in 1979. The results of this survey indicate that 80% of the area is in good to excellent range condition.

Map Reference

Allotments referred to in multiple use recommendation RM 1.1 (Proposed AMP Areas) and RM 1.2 (Existing AMP Areas) are shown on Range Resource Maps 37, 38 and 39. Management recommended in RM 1.3 would apply to the remaining public tracts in the planning area.

Objective: 1

Manage the public lands so as to provide maximum allowable forage for domestic livestock and attain at least good range condition on public lands within the New Prairie Planning Area. This objective will be accomplished by prescribed grazing management including grazing systems and grazing schedules, construction of management facilities, and land treatment where needed to facilitate the program.

Special management emphasis will be placed on the following problem areas:

- (1) Range in poor to fair condition
- (2) Crucial deer and antelope winter ranges
- (3) Wind and water erosion susceptible areas
- (4) Floodplains and riparian areas

The treatment recommended for specific problem areas within the allotments will be incorporated with grazing management. This will improve range condition and increase forage production for allowable livestock use.

Soil Vegetation Inventory Method (SVIM) transects will be established to monitor range condition and trend.

The present livestock forage allocation will continue until allotment studies show increased forage from management change and land treatment to be available. The allowable increase will be allocated on the basis of 50% to watershed, 25% to wildlife, and 25% to livestock.

Recommendation: RM-1.1

Consider 34 allotments for development and implementation of intensive grazing management through allotment management plans. SVIM studies will be initiated on the allotments to determine range condition and form the basis for long term trend data and management adjustments. Increases or decreases in vegetation allocation will be based on the long term trend information indicated by these allotment level studies. A good or better range condition will be the management goal.

Recommendation: RM-1.2

There are 28 existing AMPs in the planning area. These AMPs will be continued and periodically monitored to ensure the allotments are maintained or improved to provide good or better range condition.

Recommendation: RM-1.3

The 273 allotments in RM-1.3 are composed of scattered tracts of public lands. The relatively low acreage and ratio of public lands to private lands does not warrant the development of AMPs for these public lands. These 273 allotments in the New Prairie MFP area are recommended for a level of grazing management commensurate with the public land resources in each allotment. Grazing authorizations which specify allowable livestock use will be developed for these allotments. Grazing management stipulations will be required for specific public land tracts (or pastures) within allotments where, for example, range improvements for forage development or land treatment are applied. These stipulations could include but are not limited to: non-use, deferment, temporary fencing, special salting practices, etc.

The treatments recommended for areas within the allotments will be further analyzed for a final decision as to applicability of the practice and specific location of the treatment area on an allotment by allotment basis before development during activity planning.

Rationale: RM-1.1 through 1.3

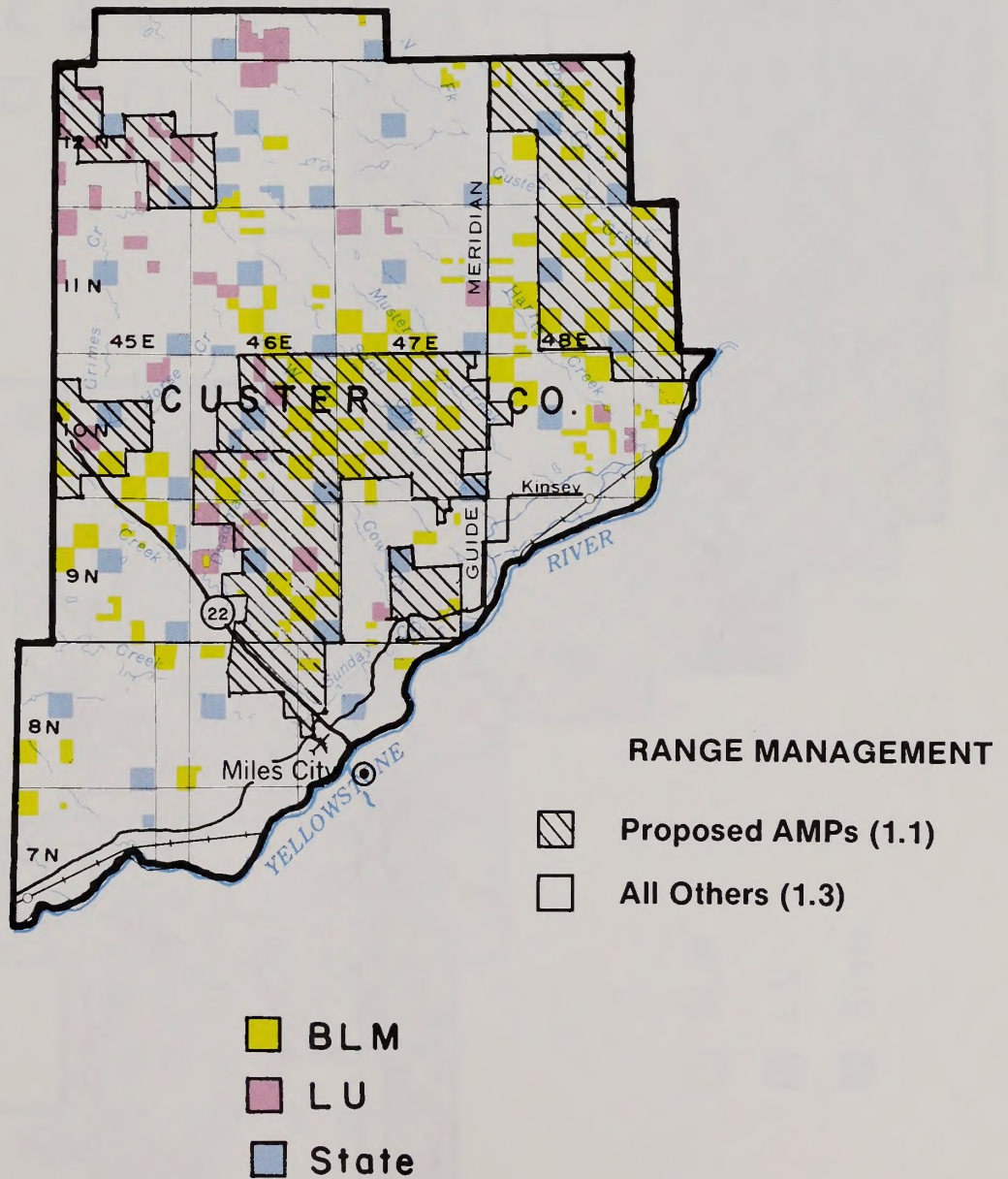
The level of management by the BLM of the allotments in the New Prairie MFP area was recommended on the basis of the public resource values present, the amount of federal acres involved, the distribution of private and federal acres, condition of the soils and vegetation, and the potential for improvement.

WATERSHED

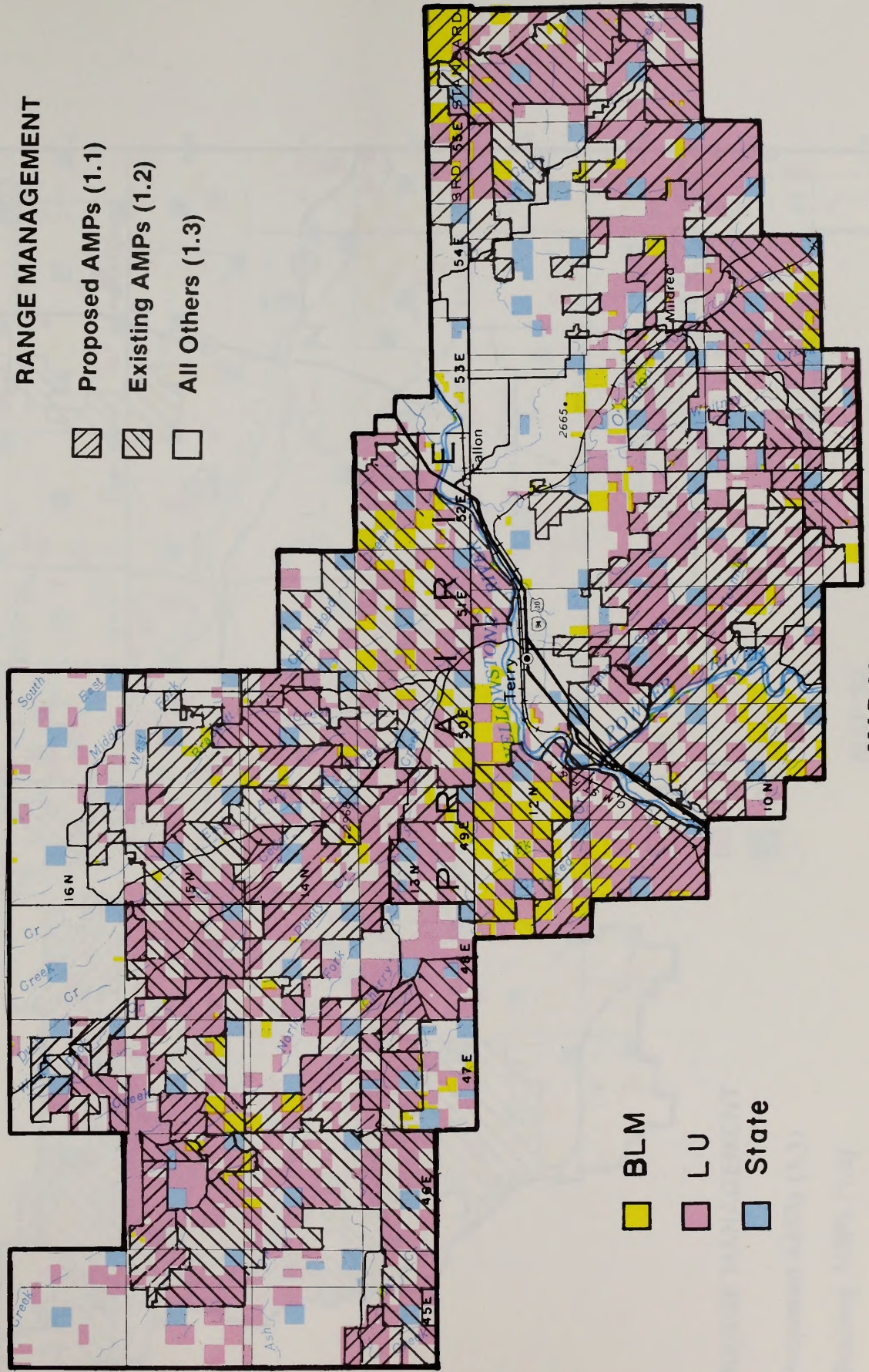
The following MFP Step 2 recommendations for vegetation allocation to protect and enhance watershed resources are the basis for the preferred alternatives being considered in the Big Dry Vegetative Allocation EIS. The decisions made in the MFP process, Step 3, will be made based on the analysis developed in the EIS process.

The watershed program is responsible for insuring soils, vegetation, cover, and hydrological resources are protected. Management deals with watershed related problems of erosion, water quality and quantity from both surface and subsurface sources. Vegetation cover in the MFP area is the biggest factor influencing erosion and water quality. Ground cover in the form of vegetation and litter, helps hold the soil in place. Excess removal of vegetation will lead to increased erosion and degradation of water quality.

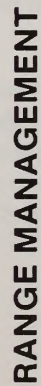
KINSEY PLANNING UNIT



NORTH & SOUTH PRAIRIE PLANNING UNITS



BAKER



MAP 39

Increased erosion on some sites within the MFP area results from activities such as road and trail building, ORV use, over-grazing, mineral exploration and farming.

Map References

Resource Maps 40 through 45 identify recommendation areas for Objectives WT-2 and 3 at site specific locations. Other recommendation areas not specifically referenced to a summary map are considered to be area wide.

Objective: 1

Reduce man-induced wind and water erosion throughout the MFP area by 1990. See Maps 40 through 42.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-1.1 and WT-1.2

Monitor the effects of livestock use and the construction of range related projects. Maintain good and excellent watershed condition and improve poor and fair watershed by establishing acceptable vegetative cover values with an upward trend. Surface disturbance from construction or maintenance on rights-of-way that involve significant public surface should not be allowed during wet periods.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-1.3

All strip mining and oil and gas development must reflect the following restrictions and/or legal requirements as necessary.

The following documents plus on-the-ground supervision will be used to assure that stipulations are complied with:

- (a) Programmatic Oil and Gas EAR
- (b) Surface owner standards for oil and gas exploration
- (c) Oil and Gas Lease Forms #MSO 3100-45, 49, 50, 51 (May 1978)
- (d) Memorandum (March 28, 1978) Acceptable Standards for Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations
- (e) State and federal standards dealing with surface mining.

Site Specific Soil Survey Level I information will be used in Activity Plans and Site Specific Analysis.

On the ground supervision should be used to assure the stipulations are complied with.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-1.4

Discourage development of roads and trails unless a positive need can be shown. Confine off-road vehicle use to established roads and trails in erosion susceptible areas. In areas where roads and trails are not used they should be closed and reseeded to establish vegetation. Walk-in access should be established where needed to protect fragile areas.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-1.5

Confine ORV use to designated areas favorable to that use. By having ORV's confined to an "adequate" expanse of land, the remaining watershed areas will be protected.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-1.6 and WT-1.7

Fight all fires with hand tools, truck-mounted pumpers and retardant drops during periods of relatively high soil and fuel moisture. However, during periods of extreme dryness, mechanical fire line construction may be allowed on slopes of less than 20%. When trails and fire lines have been constructed to fight fires, rehabilitation should begin immediately following the fire. Closing of trails and fire lines, building of erosion control structures and seeding with applicable species will facilitate rehabilitation of the area. Followup the following spring will include maintenance and reseeding where needed.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-1.8

Complete level I soil surveys on problem areas (determined by SVIM to be in poor and fair range condition) and proceed with the recommended treatment to rehabilitate the areas.

Any increase in vegetation resulting from treatments should be allocated with 50% of the increase for Watershed. No grazing should be allowed on reseeded areas for at least two growing seasons to allow vegetation establishment.

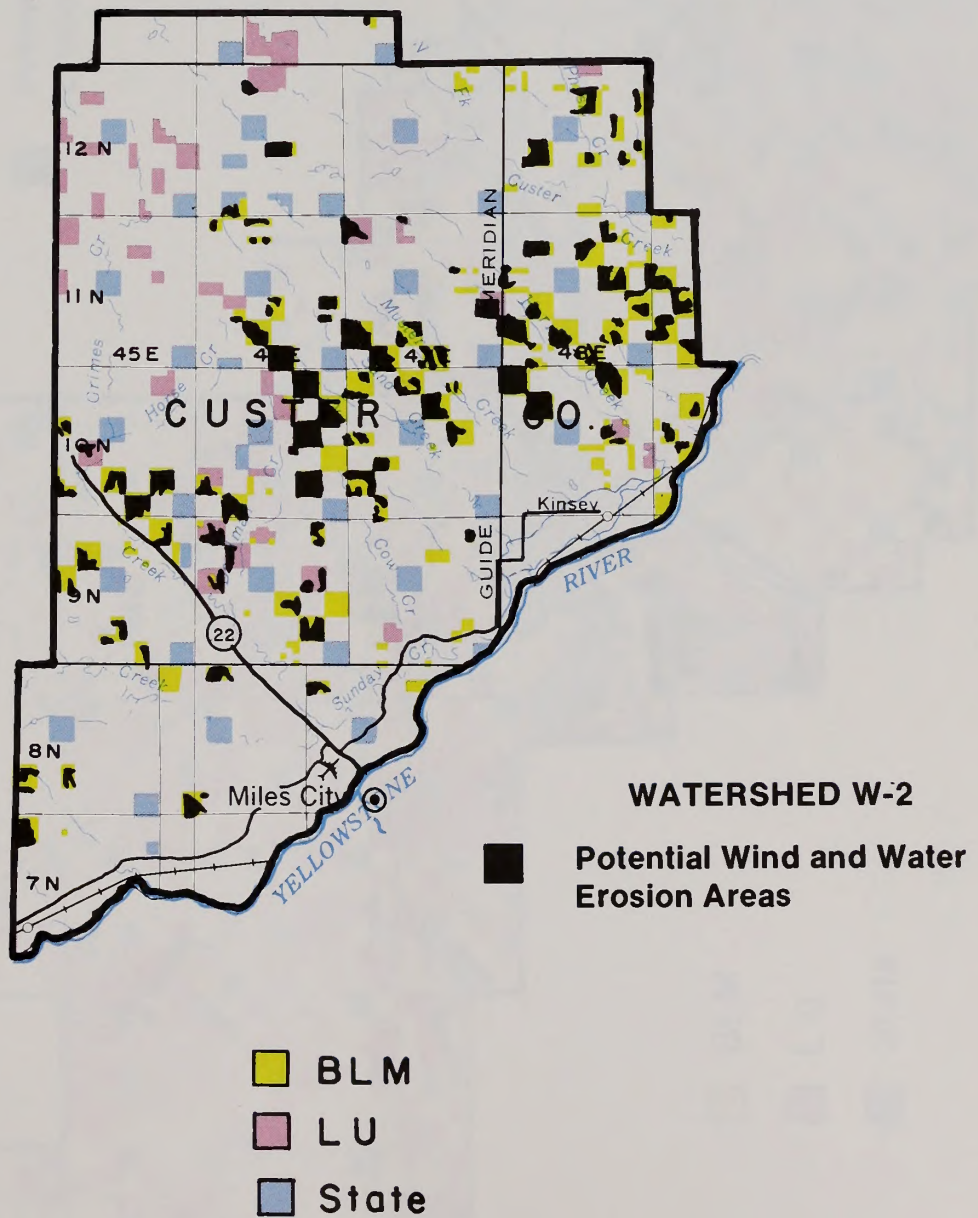
Rationale: (Recommendations WT-1.1 WT-1.8)

These recommendations, if implemented, would improve soil productivity, lessen flooding severity and improve air and water quality which are in line with BLM policy public laws and guidelines, which encourage efforts to eliminate damage to the environment, but still maintain use of the resources. Activity plans will be written with consideration for the basic soil resource to increase vegetation, increase litter (organic matter), increase soil moisture, decrease wind and water erosion, promote growth of more desirable vegetative species, and increase plant density and production.

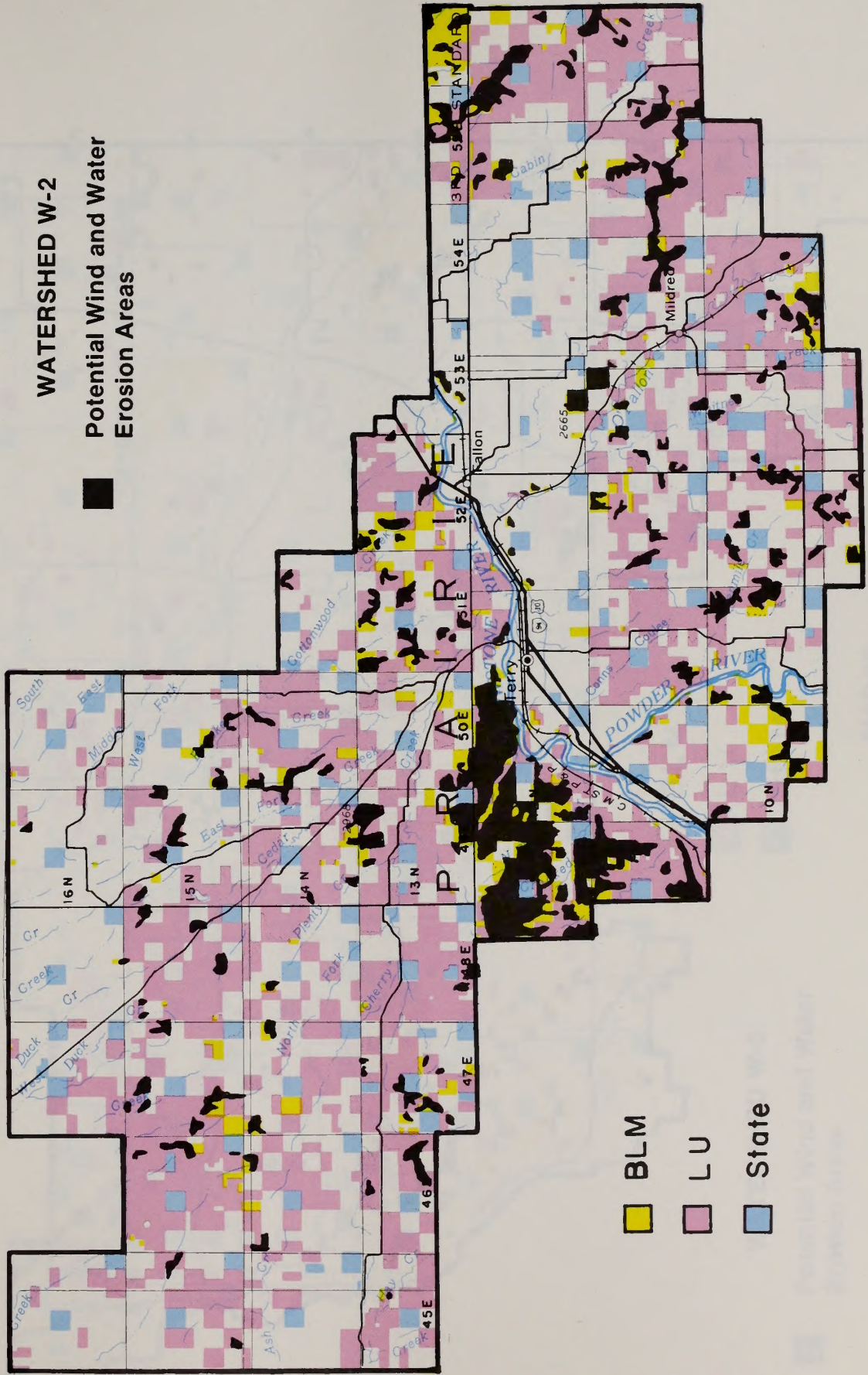
Objective: 2

In addition to conditions in Objective WT-1, severe wind and water erosion potential areas should be protected, or improved. Site specific soil surveys at Level II intensity and SCS Soil Form 5's must be consulted in activity and project planning. Severe wind and water areas have been identified on watershed Map WT-2 (Maps 15, 16, and 17).

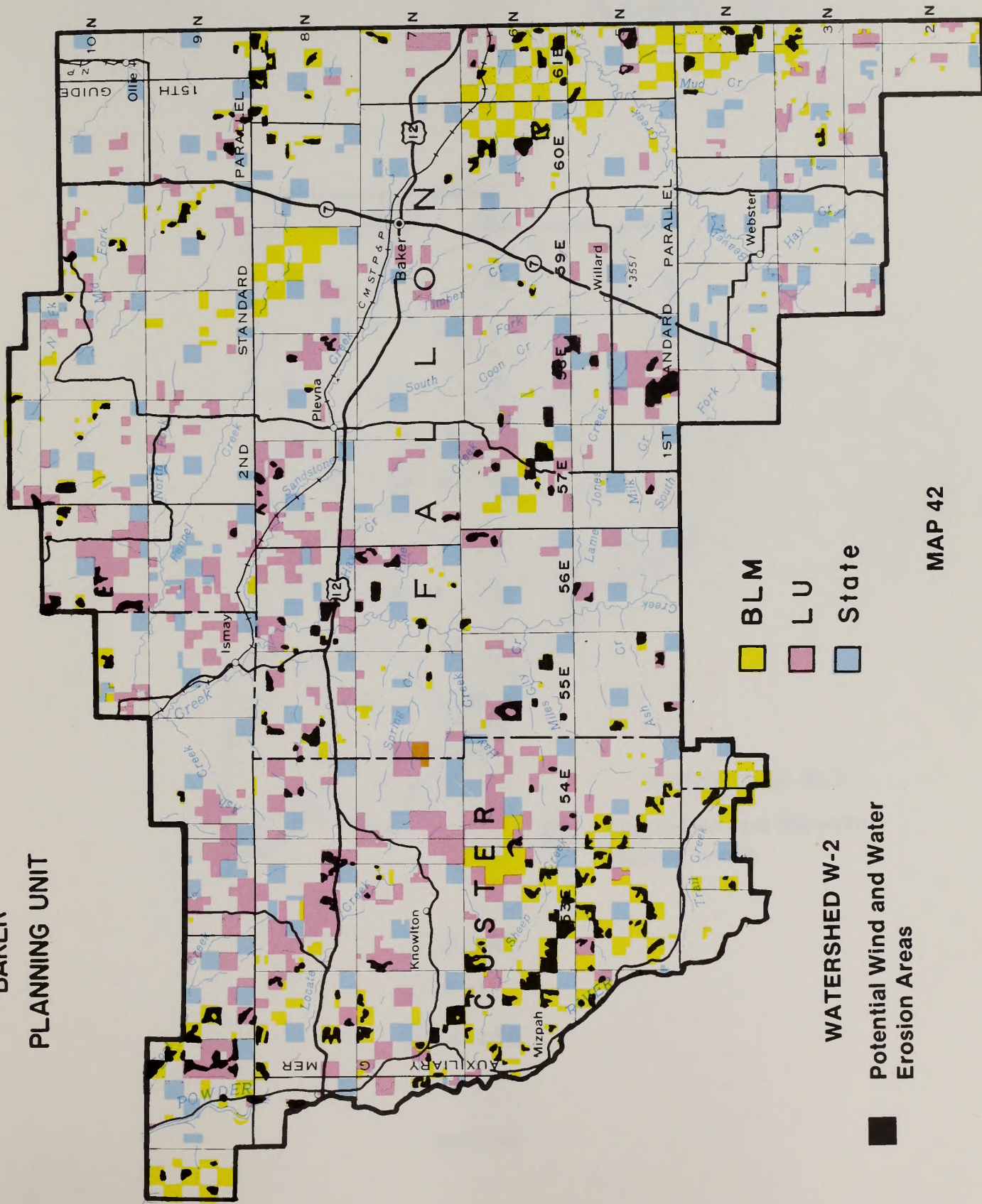
KINSEY PLANNING UNIT



NORTH & SOUTH PRAIRIE PLANNING UNITS



BAKER PLANNING UNIT



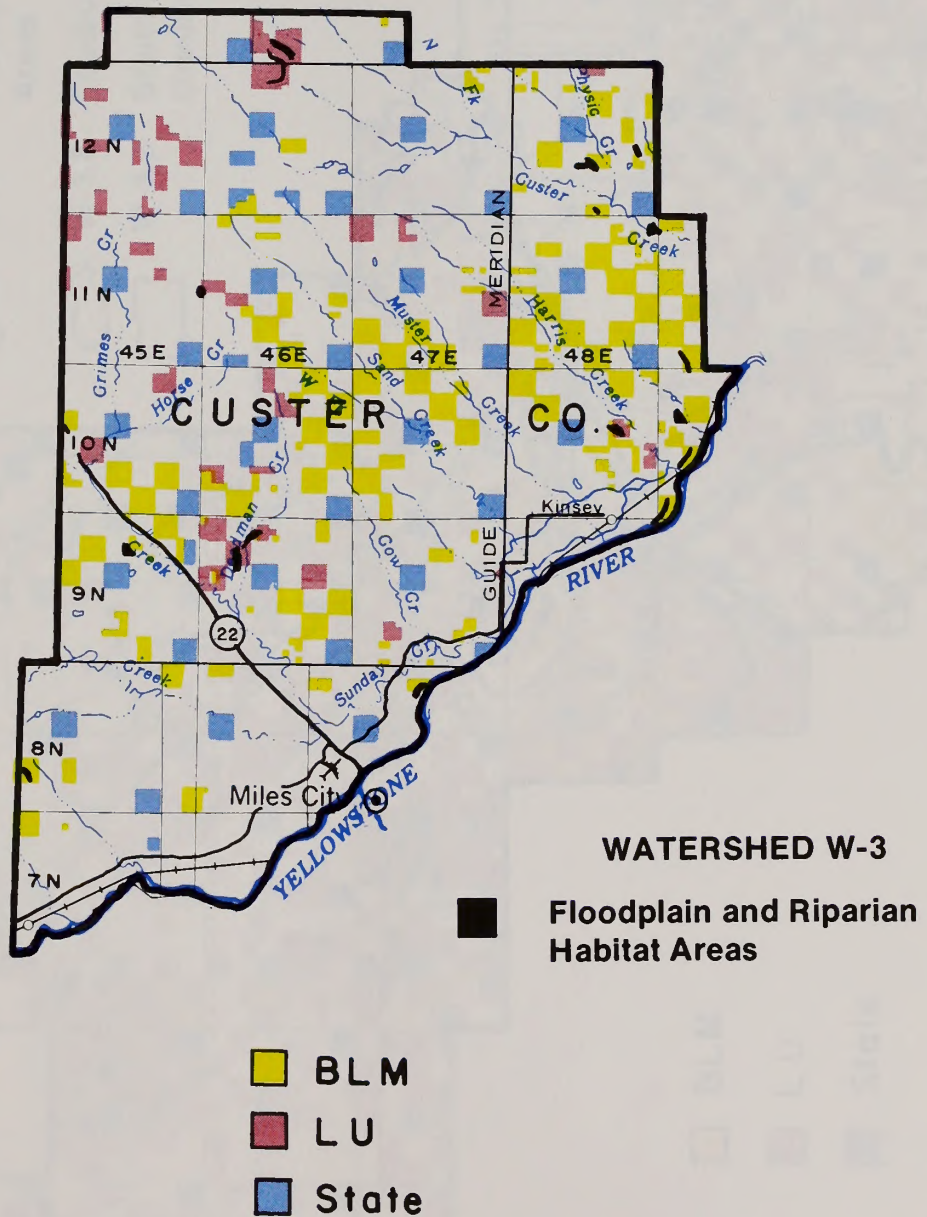
WATERSHED W-2

Potential Wind and Water
Erosion Areas

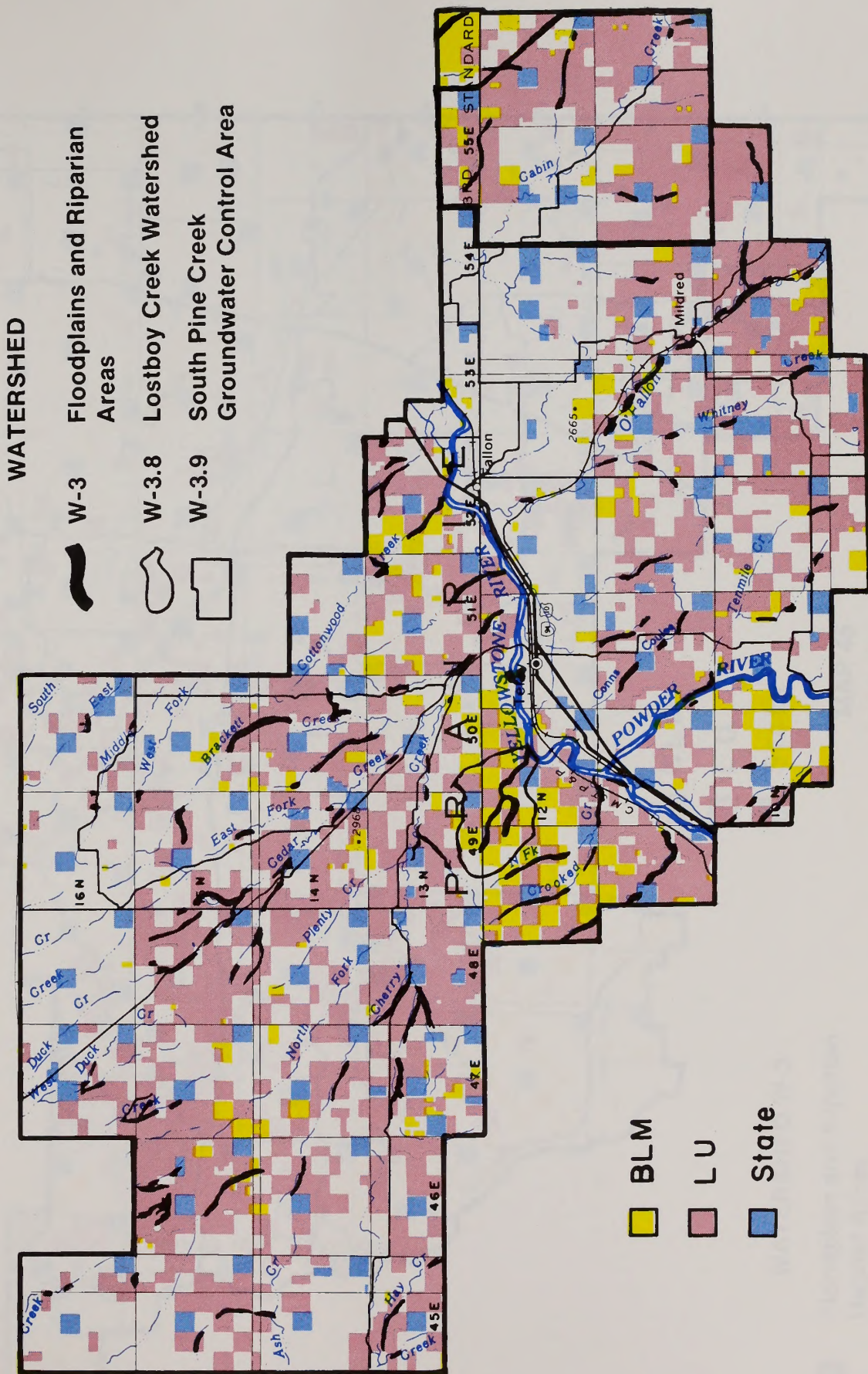
BLM
LU
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MAP 42

KINSEY PLANNING UNIT

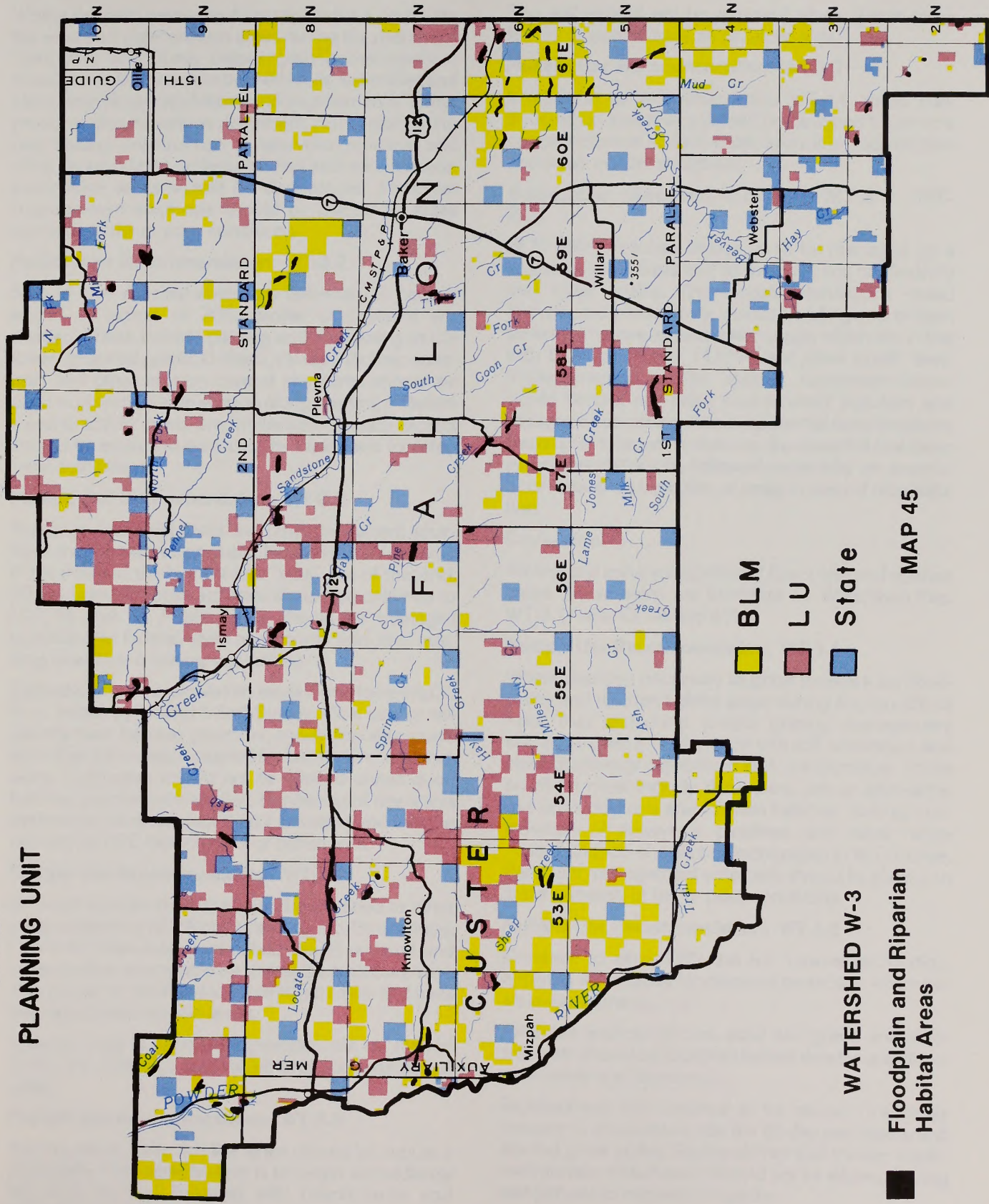


NORTH & SOUTH PRAIRIE PLANNING UNITS



MAP 44

BAKER PLANNING UNIT



WATERSHED W-3
Floodplain and Riparian
Habitat Areas

BLM
LU
State

MAP 45

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-2.1

Where deemed necessary to graze livestock on potential wind and water erosion areas during the months of April, May and June, proper grazing management should be used in conjunction with soils, watershed and plant phenology capabilities and requirements. These practices should include deferment, rest or alternating use. Salting, construction of reservoirs, pipelines and other range related projects in wind and water erosion susceptible areas should be discouraged. Particular management emphasis should be placed on areas currently in fair or poor conditions.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-2.2

Should it be deemed absolutely necessary to occupy slopes in excess of 20%, proper precautions are needed. These include grading and contouring to the lowest practical grade. Culverts, rip-rap, ditches, waterbars and other erosion control structures should be used to prevent undue erosion along roadways. Before mineral activity plans are implemented, each project should be evaluated on a case by case basis to determine suitability.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-2.3

Buildings, industrial parks and other permanent structures may be allowed on public lands in LCC IV or better if it is deemed the highest and "best" use of the land. Where possible these activities should be confined to LCC VI and VII. Public lands should be managed according to federal, state and county laws and planning boards and zoning regulations.

Cultivation may be allowed on lands found to be in LCC III or better by a level I Soil Survey. This survey will identify best farming practices, most desirable crops and other information needed for basing land use decisions. Cultivation should not be allowed unless good farming practices are applied. Harvesting of hay is less detrimental to watershed than cultivation and may be allowed on LCC (selected) VI or better soils.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-2.4

Off-road vehicles (ORVs) should be confined to other areas suitable to hill climbing, racing, etc. By confining ORV's to those areas, watershed values on wind and water erosion susceptible areas may be protected. Vehicles should be confined to established roads and trails with appropriate walk-in areas.

Vehicles used in minerals exploration will be allowed under the District's mineral/oil and gas exploration policy.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-2.5

Access roads, trails and fire lanes should be kept at a minimum. Fire rehabilitation is to begin immediately following the fire, followed with maintenance and reseeding the flowing spring where needed.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-2.6

Top soil should not be removed when constructing fences or access trails on sensitive soils.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-2.7

In addition to recommendation WT-1.4, roads constructed on sensitive soils will be designed to prevent concentration of surface water, and will include erosion and water control structures.

Rationale: (Recommendations WT-2.1 WT-2.7)

BLM policy requires resources to be managed on a sustained yield basis and to maintain soil productivity and water quality. These recommendations would improve soil productivity, reduce flooding and erosion severity, improve air and water quality which are in line with BLM guidelines, FLPMA and other public laws. Implementation of the specific recommendations would control non-point source water pollution and recognize that certain soils need special considerations because of inherent limitations. It is essential that these recommendations be followed, especially on areas in poor watershed condition or areas in need of rehabilitation.

Objective: 3

Protect and enhance significant floodplain and riparian areas. These areas are identified on Watershed Map WT-3. (Maps 43, 44 and 45).

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-3.1

Where deemed necessary to graze livestock on floodplains and riparian habitat areas during the months of April, May and June, proper grazing management should be used in conjunction with soil, watershed, and plant phenology capabilities and requirements. These practices must include deferment, rest or alternating use on floodplains and riparian habitats. Salting, construction of reservoirs, pipelines and other range related projects should be discouraged in WT-3 areas. Particular management emphasis should be placed on areas currently in fair or poor conditions.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-3.2

Continue to allow ORV use for mineral exploration, applying stipulations for resource protection where the situation warrants.

Alternate sources of coal, sand and gravel and other minerals should be explored before riparian and floodplain areas are developed.

Rights-of-way will continue to be issued in a timely manner in accordance with the 60-day processing and issuing grant policy. Rights-of-Way that involve significant surface disturbance should not be allowed during wet periods to minimize impacts.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-3.3

Farming practices (as stated under WT-2) will be conducted to prevent nutrient, sediments and pesticides from entering streams. A 150-foot setback between field and streams is needed. Dikes, water control structures and contour plowing will be constructed as needed in a case by case basis.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-3.4

Range improvements (other than reservoirs) generally will not be located in riparian habitat or floodplain areas. Salting for livestock and wildlife will not be allowed in floodplain areas or reservoir spillways. Wells, fences and other range improvements may be located on low benches nearby however. Waterspreaders, reservoirs, dikes and ditches may be located on floodplain areas. Fences must cross streams and floodplains at right angles or parallel one side of a stream 150 feet distant from the stream. Fences will be constructed or designed to prevent debris from collecting and closing the channel.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-3.5

Mining or construction on floodplains should be avoided unless there is no other alternative. Alteration of stream channels and dredging of stream bottoms for sand and gravel should not be allowed. Alternate sources for sand and gravel should be explored (utilizing soil surveys) and used before WT-3 areas are utilized.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-3.6

Removal of living trees and other vegetation from channels and flood plains should be kept to a minimum. Dead tree removal may be necessary to improve flow capacity. Manage to protect, introduce and establish streamside vegetation on streams on public lands that have been determined as having floodplains and/or riparian habitat and are in need of protection.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-3.7

Allow livestock to graze the Lost Boy Creek drainage but under a grazing system that does not deteriorate the vegetative cover. This system must include consideration for soil cover, compaction and plant phenology.

No coal reserves have been identified in Lost Boy Creek. Oil and gas activities may continue as long as no roads are built. Helicopter/dog house techniques should be used if feasible.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-3.8

In the South Pine controlled ground water area (located in the Prairie P.U.) the following are to be implemented:

- (1) Surface water, i.e., springs and reservoirs, will be the primary source of water developments.
- (2) All flowing wells will be controlled to prevent wasting the ground water.

- (3) Use of the ground water from a formation above the Fox Hills Formation will not be permitted.

Rationale: (Recommendations WT-3.1 WT-3.8)

Executive Order 11990 and BLM Manuals 7240.60, 7221.2 and 5740.23A call for floodplain management and protection. Surface and ground water supplies are the primary sources of water for both human and livestock consumption. Channel stability and streambank/riparian vegetation retard and lessen flooding severity. In addition, channel integrity and water quality are improved by protecting and enhancing bottomlands. Prevention of grazing and vehicle travel on wet floodplain soils will reduce soil compaction, improve root penetration, and lessen erodibility to reduce streambank damage. Management of floodplains is particularly important to water quality and reduction of sediment loads.

Objective: 4

Prevent watershed degradation from poorly designed and located range improvements, road building, diversion dikes and other land disturbing activities.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-4.1 and WT-4.2

Soil and hydrologic information will be used in location and design of range related projects through application of the 9101 Manual. The projects include the design, location and maintenance of reservoirs, pipelines, fences, dikes, wells, springs, or other projects that require soils and hydrologic data.

Soils and hydrologic information will also be used in the location and design of roads and trails.

Rationale: (Recommendation WT-4.1 and WT-4.2)

Many of the previous BLM range projects have been constructed without hydrologic and soils input. These projects are failing or require extensive maintenance relatively early in project life. Use of soil-hydrologic data can lead to proper project location and design, eliminate expensive repair and a needless waste of time and money.

Objective: 5

Continue to inventory soils, climate, air, and surface and ground waters to obtain baseline data for more informed management decisions. To improve data collection, inventories will be preceded with development of a detailed plan, stating objectives, level of intensity, and data collection techniques.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-5.1

Water quality, streambank and channel characterization, and ground cover need to be monitored on watersheds for input into the District's grazing, coal, wildlife, and watershed programs.

These watersheds have been identified on MFP maps but are not included on the summary maps due to scale problems.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-5.2

There are eight streams needing discharge measurements to determine instream flow needs for fish spawning. These creeks are shown on the MFP Maps but are not included on the summary maps due to scale problems.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-5.3

Climatic data to include air quality will be collected for potential coal development areas. Precipitation and temperature data will also be collected at soil drought monitoring sites. The MSO air specialist will direct the data collection.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-5.4

BLM should continue in assisting SCS in the planning area in completing Level II soil surveys on public lands. This will include updating existing soil surveys as new information becomes available.

Rationale: (Recommendations WT-5.1 WT-5.4)

Baseline data provides the means by which to assess the influence of activities on air, water and soil resources. Such inventories are also needed to provide technical input on water developments, filing water rights, mine land reclamation, instream flow, climate, range projects, and vegetation surveys. Monitoring is necessary to assure compliance with Montana's 208 Water Quality Management Plans, court mandated grazing EIS's and the federal coal leasing program. Knowledge of the flow of particular streams is necessary to protect fisheries and to provide some basis in applying for water rights for instream flow. Level II soil surveys are needed for allocating vegetation, land use planning project analysis, hydrologic responses and other land management needs.

Objective: 6

Control the dumping, storage and/or burial of pesticides, herbicides, toxic chemicals, solid and liquid waste and petroleum distillates on public lands.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-6.1

When requested by local government, a disposal area should be cooperatively identified and developed to locate suitable dumping sites and locations on public lands. This will include geology, ground water and soils (Level I) information to determine the suitability of the site.

Rationale:

Uncontrolled dumping, storage and/or burial of toxic materials on public lands will lead to the lowering of soil productivity, water and air quality and other watershed values. Disposal areas are considered a long term use of public lands and areas can be designated where compatible with long term land use.

Objective: 7

Utilize water reservations granted to the BLM by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-7.1

Develop a plan to make use of public water reservations and implement these plans by 1990. This plan will specify economic, engineering, soils, marketing and other studies as specified by the DNRC.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WT-7.2

Beneficial use of BLM water reservation. The Montana DNRC has granted the BLM water reservations on about 6,000 acres in this MFP area for irrigation purposes. This water should be utilized only on soils in land capability classes (LCC) III, IV, and selected VI. Site specific level I soil surveys will be used to determine soils, land capability classes, conservation practices, on areas proposed for irrigation.

Rationale: (Recommendation WT-7.1 WT-7.2)

Proper utilization of limited water resources will insure that water resources are not extended beyond resource capabilities or needlessly wasted.

The BLM has until February 1982 to submit to the DNRC a detailed plan identifying projects to make use of water reservations for irrigation purposes. Irrigation of federal land will use water allocated to BLM by the State of Montana.

WILDLIFE

These MFP Step 2 recommendations for vegetation allocation to protect and enhance wildlife habitat are the basis for the preferred alternatives being considered in the Big Dry Vegetative Allocation EIS. The decisions made in the MFP process, Step 3, will be made based on the analysis developed in the EIS process.

The New Prairie Planning Area is comprised of a wide variety of vegetation types and land forms which provide for a diversity of wildlife habitats. Land form-vegetation types range from riparian, alluvial river bottoms, through rolling short grass prairies on into

juniper-covered, rough breaks. Areas of upland, hardwood-covered draws and strongly rolling, pine-covered hills further increase the diversity of the planning area. Principal big game species found in the area are mule deer, white-tailed deer and antelope. Upland game birds include sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, Merriam's turkey, Hungarian partridge and ring-necked pheasant. The ponds, streams, rivers and reservoirs serve as breeding grounds and/or staging areas for waterfowl nesting in or migrating through the planning area. In addition to traditional game species, the planning area provides habitat for a large variety of non-game species such as the black-tailed prairie dog, ferruginous hawk and western meadowlark. Primary fish species stocked in the planning area are rainbow trout and largemouth bass. The Yellowstone and Powder Rivers provide habitat for a large variety of warm water fish.

Known or potential habitat exists for several federally listed endangered species. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons have nested in the New Prairie Planning Area and may continue to do so. Whooping cranes have been observed migrating through the eastern portion of the planning area. Black-tailed prairie dog towns exist and provide potential habitat for the black-footed ferret. Some evidence of ferret occurrence has been observed.

Consumptive recreational use of the wildlife resource attributable to public lands is shown in the following table. Use is expressed in visitor days. This does not include non-consumptive use of the resource as data is not available for this type of participation.

Wildlife Species	Visitor Days
Deer	2,424
Antelope	810
Upland Game	1,431
Waterfowl	268
Fishing	2,926

As identified by the Planning Area Analysis, public surface lands account for up to 26% of the total consumptive use of the wildlife resource in the New Prairie Planning Area. Also identified is the fact that these lands will assume greater importance as the demand for hunting and fishing increases. Primary wildlife management objectives in this MFP are directed at improving and/or maintaining habitat for all species of fish and wildlife. This includes providing high quality habitat to meet increasing future demands on the fish and wildlife resource.

Map References

Resource Maps 46, 47 and 48 identify multiple use recommendations at site specific locations. Recommendations not shown are considered to be area wide unless otherwise noted in the text.

Objective: 1

Conduct four-season inventories on the KRCRAs so that adequate information is available to apply the seven unsuitability criteria dealing with wildlife.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-1.1

Conduct inventories of the game and non-game fisheries and wildlife resources in the Carlyle, Circle Southwest, Ismay, Lame Jones and Knowlton KRCRAs prior to any mineral leasing activity.

Rationale:

These inventories will allow the BLM to comply with the regulations for federal coal management. Without the information, the unsuitability criteria cannot be applied and no federally owned coal could be leased.

Objective: 2

Enhance wildlife and fisheries populations by expanding habitat to suitable sites.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-2.1

As important wildlife areas are identified, analyze the opportunities and capabilities of these areas. If they meet anticipated demand and use, initiate purchase, easement or exchange to consolidate these important wildlife habitats into public ownership.

Rationale:

Many important wildlife areas are on private lands. With the increased emphasis on range improvement and intensified agriculture, their value for wildlife is in jeopardy. Loss of important habitat often results in loss of wildlife populations. Public ownership of these areas will ensure protection, maintenance, and improvement of important habitats.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-2.2

Create wetlands habitat to enhance the prairie diversity for waterfowl and associated species.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-2.3

Develop a diverse warm and cold water fishery by reservoir construction and subsequent stocking.

Rationale:

By developing new wetlands and reservoirs, the overall carrying capacity for waterfowl and fisheries can be increased. This type of habitat development benefits all types of wildlife and will help to meet the increased demand on wildlife indicated by the Planning Area Analysis (PAA).

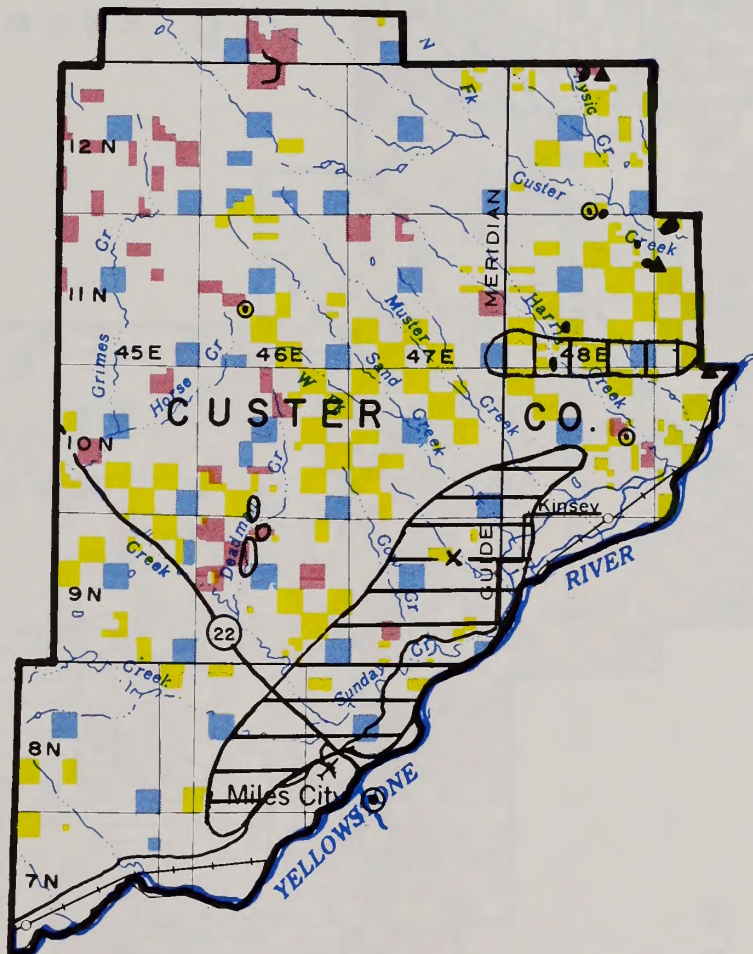
Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-2.4

Reintroduce peregrine falcons to the Terry Badlands in accordance with the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan as birds become available.

WILDLIFE

- X Fish Reservoir Const. (2.3)
- ▲ Raptor Protection (4.3, 4.4)
- ⊙ Grouse Leks (4.4)
- Prairie Dog Towns (4.4, 4.6)
- Riparian Protection (4.10)
- Winter Ranges (4.4, 4.12)
- Antelope
- Sage Grouse

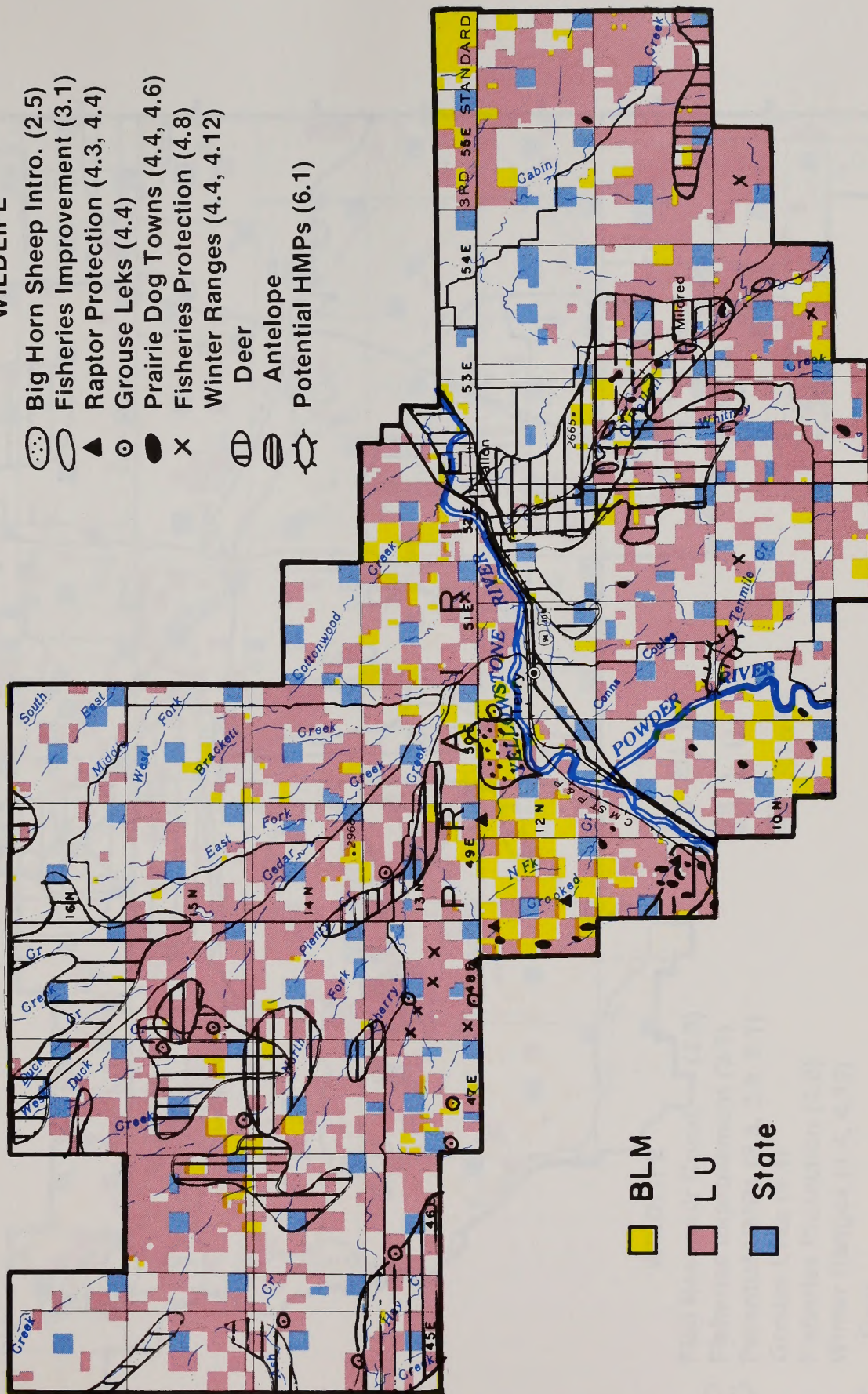
KINSEY PLANNING UNIT



- BLM
- LU
- State

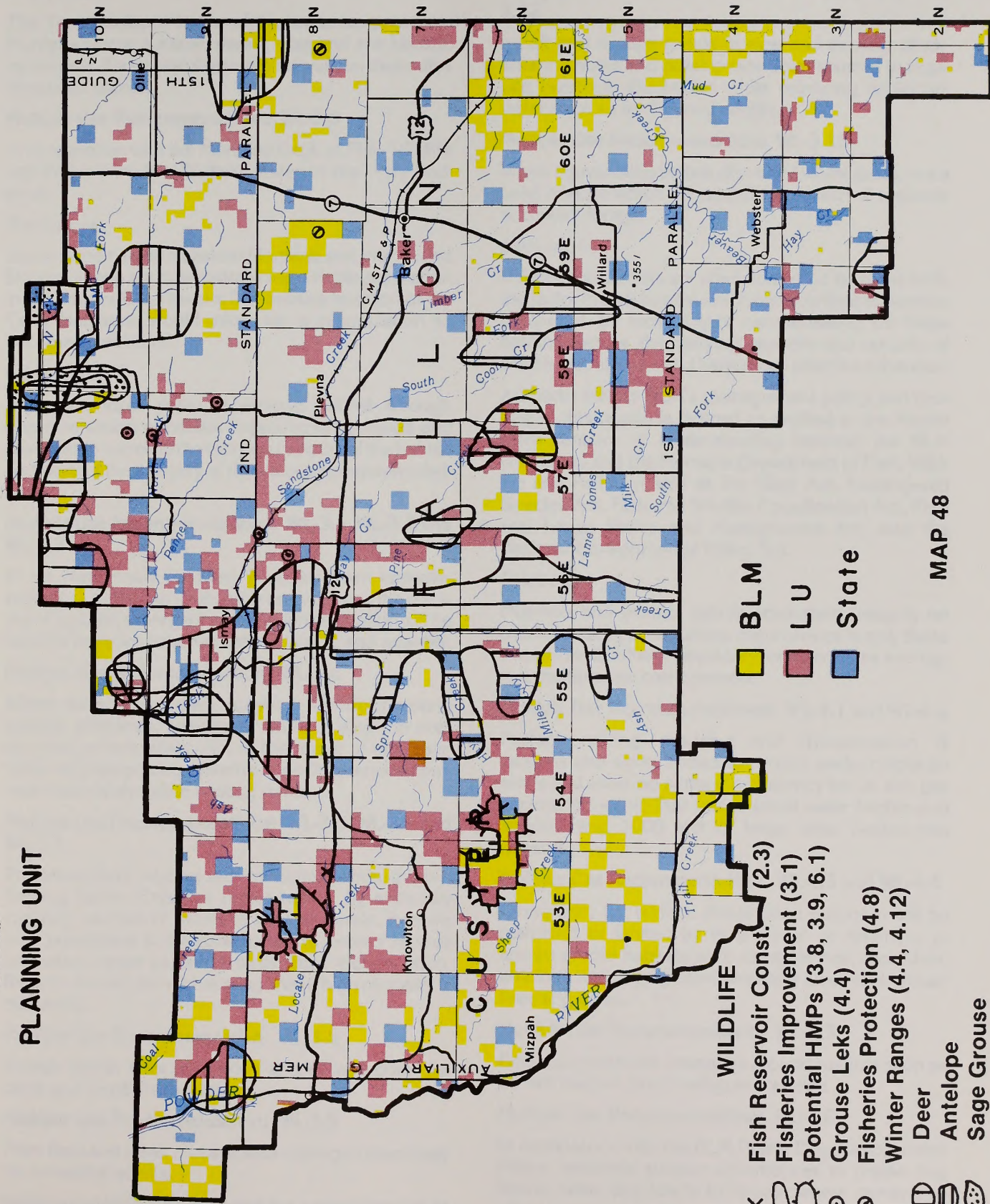
WILDLIFE

-  Big Horn Sheep Intro. (2.5)
-  Fisheries Improvement (3.1)
-  Raptor Protection (4.3, 4.4)
-  Grouse Leks (4.4)
-  Prairie Dog Towns (4.4, 4.6)
-  Fisheries Protection (4.8)
-  Winter Ranges (4.4, 4.12)
-  Deer
-  Antelope
-  Potential HMPs (6.1)



MAP 47

BAKER PLANNING UNIT



BLM
 LU
 State

WILDLIFE
 X Fish Reservoir Const. (2.3)
 Fish Fisheries Improvement (3.1)
 Potential HMPs (3.8, 3.9, 6.1)
 Grouse Leaks (4.4)
 Fisheries Protection (4.8)
 Winter Ranges (4.4, 4.12)

Deer
 Antelope
 Sage Grouse

Rationale:

The Terry Badlands is one of the few areas in eastern Montana where suitable nesting sites and one historic eyrie exists. If successful recovery is to occur, these sites should be utilized.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-2.5

In cooperation with the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, introduce bighorn sheep to the Terry Badlands.

Rationale:

Sheep were native to eastern Montana and introduced bighorn sheep are now maintaining a viable population in the Powder River breaks. The relative isolation of the Terry Badlands would allow for a repopulation to become established.

Objective: 3

Improve and/or enhance existing habitat through implementation of habitat improvement projects and practices to increase the carrying capacity of the habitat and protect the integrity of the natural ecosystems balance.

Multiple Use Recommendations: WL-3.1, WL-3.2 and WL-3.3

In the New Prairie Planning Area, instream improvement structures, fish shelters in reservoirs and the planting of aquatic, emergent and riparian vegetation will be used to improve fisheries habitat quality and quantity.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-3.4

Where suitable sites exist, construct waterfowl nesting islands, platforms, baskets or boxes during the construction of new reservoirs or the repair of old reservoirs. Institute grazing systems or partially fence to provide residual shoreline nesting cover.

Multiple Use Recommendations: WL-3.5, WL-3.6 and WL-3.7

Provide artificial nesting sites for raptors where this is a limiting factor. Enhance raptor habitat by artificially creating perches or roosts in treeless terrain. Require new powerlines to be constructed to protect raptors and other large perching birds from electrocution. Require modification of existing lines if high mortality is occurring.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-3.8

Provide brush piles as nesting and escape cover for birds and small mammals.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-3.9

Plant food and cover crops at sites managed intensively for terrestrial wildlife.

Recommendation WL-3.10 was not carried forward as a Multiple Use Recommendation.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-3.11 and WL-3.12

Install bird escape ramps in new and existing stock-watering tanks and develop new water sources to regulate livestock distribution while providing additional water sources for fish and wildlife.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-3.13

When rejuvenating stands of crested wheat grass, use a seed mixture which will extend the season of available succulent forage.

Rationale:

Wildlife populations are often controlled by some limiting factor in their habitat which controls their expansion or spread. By removing or compensating for these limiting factors, the carrying capacity and security of wildlife populations and habitat can often be enhanced.

Authority for the BLM's management policy and posture in this regard is defined or implied in the Master Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM (Montana) and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, as well as the Sikes Act, Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Objective: 4

Maintain and protect overall ecosystem integrity on public lands by constraining disturbances to only those measures absolutely necessary for reasonable and logical multiple use management.

Multiple Use Recommendations: WL-4.1 and WL-4.2

Prohibit mining, dredging and channelization of streams and water bodies to protect wetland-riparian areas and allow no surface occupancy for oil and gas exploration within 500 feet of small water bodies and streams and 1000 feet of large water bodies and streams.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-4.3 and WL-4.4

Occupancy for surface disturbance purposes will be restricted or limited by time-of-year or distances in known crucial habitats such as raptor nest sites, deer, antelope and sage grouse wintering areas and grouse breeding areas.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-4.5

Establish protective measures around hazards such as oil well reserve pits to safeguard wildlife.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-4.6

In accordance with the BLM Prairie Dog Management Policy, minimize surface disturbances in prairie dog towns, allow dog towns to remain where damage to other resources is not occurring, but limit expansion

and use chemical control only when towns have been certified ferret free.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-4.7

Identify and reserve minimum instream flows and water levels in cooperation with the Mont. Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to maintain water quality and quantity of the aquatic ecosystems.

Multiple Use Recommendations: WL-4.8 and WL-4.9

As funds and manpower permit, fence fishing reservoirs and institute grazing systems to provide residual vegetation for water quality maintenance. Maintain vegetative cover on contributing watersheds as recommended by Watershed 1.1, 2.1, and 3.1 to maintain water quality.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-4.10

Maintain woody draws and riparian bottoms in good condition. Where deterioration is occurring, institute grazing systems to allow for regrowth or erect fences if the grazing systems are not effective.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-4.11 and WL-4.12

Continue current vegetation allocation to provide sufficient quantities of vegetation for consumptive use by deer, antelope and sage grouse on summer and winter ranges. Monitor important brush species to assure overutilization does not occur.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-4.13

Manage to obtain or maintain good ecological range condition in the New Prairie Planning Area. This will provide residual vegetation for nesting and escape cover needed by birds, small mammals and reptiles.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-4.14

Fences on public lands will be located and designed to minimize restrictions on wildlife movements. Plan pasture sizes as large as possible to minimize the amount of fencing.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-4.15 and WL-4.16

Maintain and protect trees used by nesting raptors and colonial birds and snags used by cavity nesting birds and mammals. Maintain two snags per acre of 12-inch or greater diameter in harvest areas. Fight wild fires aggressively in timbered areas.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-4.17 and WL-4.18

Assure that the Clean Water Act and watershed guidelines are adhered to in mechanical land treatments, herbicide and pesticide spraying. Control noxious weeds on public land using the least damaging methods.

Rationale:

The principal controlling factor of most wildlife populations is the quantity and quality of the habitat (both aquatic and terrestrial). If the natural habitat and ecosystem relationships can be maintained at a level where there is no significant deterioration, fisheries and wildlife populations will flourish.

This concept of maintaining ecosystem integrity is implied and/or endorsed and mandated by the Taylor Grazing Act; the National Environmental Policy Act; Federal Land Policy and Management Act; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; Endangered Species Act; the Sikes Act; the Master Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and the Montana Department of Fish and Game; Federal Water Pollution Control Act; Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act; Water Quality Act; Clean Water Restoration Act; Public Land Administration Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act; Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act; and the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Objective: 5

Manage and protect endangered wildlife species and their habitat on public lands; ensure that BLM Management practices do not compromise or jeopardize the continued existence of any wildlife species.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-5.1 and WL-5.3

If multiple use management is not sufficient to protect identified endangered species habitat, those public lands may be declared an ACEC and managed to protect those public lands from any uses which would jeopardize these habitat values. Stringent law enforcement measures will ensure protection of endangered species habitat.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-5.2

BLM will participate in recovery plan implementation for endangered species on public lands in accordance with identified time frames.

Rationale:

Endangered species are those that require some special management consideration to maintain or sustain their populations at stable or improving levels. Many of these species have suffered as a result of past human abuses or encroachment. To safeguard endangered species habitat, special management emphasis and measures are directed toward these habitat areas. Authority for this management emphasis is derived from the Endangered Species Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and National Environmental Policy Act.

Objective: 6

Establish habitat management plans (HMPs) on locations in the planning area to be intensively protected or developed for the benefit of wildlife.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-6.1

Habitat management plans (HMPs) will be developed on areas identified as meeting qualifying criteria.

Rationale:

By developing HMPs on areas to be intensively managed for wildlife, emphasis and priorities can be identified and programmed for the benefit of wildlife habitat and population.

Objective: 7

Coordinate BLM wildlife program activities in the planning area with other federal, state and special interest entities to assure a coherent and complimentary approach to wildlife population and habitat activities. Recommendation WL-7.1 was not carried forward as a Multiple Use Recommendation.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-7.2

Improve access by instituting S-60 agreements, rights-of-way and legal access agreements as demand and opportunities become available.

Rationale:

Access to public lands will encourage adequate harvest of game animals to maintain the herds consistent with available forage. The recreational potential of all fish and wildlife will be realized.

Multiple Use Recommendation: WL-7.3

Those wildlife species commonly known as predators will be recognized and managed for the public benefit. Excessive damage to livestock or game animals on public lands will be controlled only as necessary by the appropriate State or Federal agency in accordance with a comprehensive plan which safeguards the overall ecosystem welfare.

Rationale:

Wildlife species known as predators are necessary in the wildlife community to help maintain proper balance and variety. These animals meet local and regional demands for wildlife based recreation (sport hunting, fur trapping, photography, etc.). To ensure the safety of the public and to prevent unnecessary killing of animals other than the target species, all control work must be competently supervised. A planned approach to administration of animal damage control measures on public lands will consider the welfare of the ecosystem at large and efforts can be directed to specific problems. This approach is supported by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald Eagle Protection Act, NEPA, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, Federal

Environmental Pesticide Control Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Endangered Species Act and Executive Orders 11643, 11870, and 11917 (Environmental Safeguards on Activities for Animal Damage Control).

RECREATION

The data presently available indicates that visitor use other than casual sightseeing is seasonal by nature. The main pressure is related directly to hunting and is restricted almost exclusively to the fall season.

The Yellowstone River corridor offers recreational opportunity with a longer season. Even in this situation the activity is still only six months long at best.

There exists at present a trend toward increasing recreational use of public lands.

Map References

Recommendations are considered areawide unless otherwise noted in the text.

Objective: 1

Develop a visitor service program which displays opportunities and directs usage in positive directions.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-1.1

Develop and make available to the public, information which will encourage positive directions.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-1.2

Provide on-the-ground management and/or supervision on a case by case basis when actually needed in special areas or situations, e.g. high use recreation areas or for special events held on public lands.

Rationale: R-1.1 and R-1.2

Recreational use on public lands in the planning area is expected to increase steadily in the future. The lands are capable of supporting these activities, but the Bureau must take positive steps toward more intensive management.

A well informed public will better utilize and protect the natural resources available. This should reduce the need for expensive on-the-ground supervision by BLM and other agencies.

Some situations (i.e., administering S-60 program) require intensive controls.

Objective: 2

Develop a program for protecting all the values now present on the Yellowstone River, and the adjacent public lands.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-2.1

Develop public access and boat launching facilities at

two locations on the Yellowstone River between Miles City and Fallon. The mouth of the Powder River and below the Terry Bridge are preferred locations. See Map 50.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-2.2

Identify and mark known hazards to travelers and recreationists along the Yellowstone River within the New Prairie Planning Area.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-2.3

Develop and implement a program to fully interpret the Yellowstone River. Devices should include signs located on river, brochures available in the BLM Office, and special maps.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-2.4

Develop rest stops with sanitary facilities on some public lands along the river corridor. Provide a regular patrol and maintenance service for these BLM facilities.

Rationale: R-2.1 through R-2.4

Presently, little use is made of the river resource. However, as the demand for this type recreation increases, as it will with population growth, more intensive management will be required.

Much of the public land with recreational value along the river is accessible only by boat. Nearly all sections of the recreation community could benefit from increasing river access.

For public safety purposes, visitors must be made aware of known river hazards: rocks, undercurrents, submerged debris, etc.

An interpretive program will help the visitor understand and enjoy features of the area. This will enhance the quality of the recreation experience and help protect the basic resource.

To assure maintenance of a quality environment and provide for public health, sanitary facilities will be necessary as use increases.

Objective: 3

As demand develops, provide a controlled campground development program in the New Prairie Area. The highest priority should be associated with the Yellowstone River corridor.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-3.1

Allocate 100% of the vegetation in future recreation sites to recreation at the time of development.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-3.2

Develop a plan which accurately shows potential development sites and potential loss of forage to grazing users in the planning area.

Rationale: R-3.1 and R-3.2

Presently, overnight visitors camp in a diffuse and indiscriminate fashion. If demands become heavy, this type of use could cause problems. Visitor useage on the Yellowstone or in the unit at large could increase and make some facilities necessary to insure proper utilization and protection of the resource.

Grazing use conflicts with both visitor use and facility maintenance in developed areas. Therefore grazing should be removed. The impact on grazing should be assessed in the initial stages since that discipline would be the primary conflict.

Objective: R-4

Provide for the development and protection of the land immediately adjacent to the mouth of the Powder River. See Map 50. Cooperate with Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks fully in this effort.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-4.1 and 4.2

The tract of land at the mouth of the Powder River should be protected from unnecessary surface disturbing activities. There should be one well-planned access route and all other existing ways closed and rehabilitated. There should also be an historic and archeological inventory done on this site at once.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-4.3

The beaver now present in the mouth area of the Powder River should be more intensively managed. They should be either moved or eliminated, whichever proper management dictates.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-4.4

Allocate 100% of the vegetation in the mouth area of the Powder River to recreation. There should be a small amount of fencing employed in conjunction with the natural barrier (bluff at the east side) to accomplish this.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-4.5

If and when possible, the tract of land on the west bank of the Powder River, at its mouth, should be acquired. The possibilities of this should be explored immediately and all present problems and possibilities compiled in a report to the District Manager by the end of fiscal year 1984.

Rationale: R-4.1 through R-4.5

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department is interested in development of a visitor-use facility at this location. By cooperating with this state agency, it would be possible to ensure that adequate measures are taken to protect the public resources, including fisheries at this site as well as provide a much needed visitor-use facility.

At present there are several poorly directed vehicle ways which serve no real purpose. They now constitute a significant impact. The access could be adequately served by one vehicle way. This is one of the most historically significant tracts of land in the planning unit as well as having some of the most varied recreational opportunities potential. Because of the significance of this site, a good inventory should receive top priority. It should be protected pending any development.

Objective: 5

Provide a variety of quality reservoir fishing opportunities in the New Prairie Planning Area.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-5.1

Maintain existing fishing opportunities by appropriate management actions and restocking as needed.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-5.2

Stock existing reservoirs, which are capable of sustaining a fishery, located within 20 miles of population centers, that have legal and physical access.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-5.3

If demand warrants, design future reservoir developments to sustain a fishery and insure public access.

Multiple Use Recommendation: 5.4

Where consistent with Bureau policy, support the proposed Sunday Creek Dam or other large reservoir developments which would provide additional fishing opportunities.

Rationale: R-5.1 through R-5.4

The reservoirs containing an existing fishery have generally become known to the public and most receive relatively high use. As long as the reservoirs are physically capable, maintenance of existing fisheries will provide low cost opportunities.

There appears to be a fairly high demand for fishing opportunities. Stocking accessible reservoirs located within reasonable distance of population centers would provide additional opportunities.

Large fishing reservoirs are extremely rare in this Planning Area. There is only one—South Sandstone Reservoir near Plevna—which exceeds 100 surface acres. This reservoir receives heavy visitor use during the summer season.

Objective: 6

Implement E.O. 11644 by formulating ORV management plan and implementing appropriate regulations and designations.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-6.1

All public land in the New Prairie Area should be designated open to ORV use, except in locations where

conflicts exist with other resource values such as the potential wind and water erosion areas (See Maps 40, 41 and 42) and wildlife wintering areas, grouse breeding grounds, etc (See Maps 46, 47 and 48).

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-6.2

Perform an accelerated inventory on public land to identify areas where ORV use has been abusive and enclose them. Identify alternative open-use areas.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-6.3

Perform an inventory of the 300-acre tract of land (T13N-R51E, N1/2 Sec. 10), and if suitable, identify it or an alternative area as open for ORV use.

Rationale: R-6.1—R-6.3

ORV activities have been identified in several parts of the unit and are presenting some degree of undesirable results. To date, most of this activity involves motorcycles and 4-wheel drive vehicles. Until a management plan is formulated, these uses will continue in an indiscriminate manner. The uncontrolled use is not in the best interest of public land management or resource protection.

Objective: 7

Develop access through exchange within the planning area adequate to assure that all areas with potential for recreation can be fully utilized, especially along the Yellowstone River. (See Lands Objective 1.)

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-7.1

As a first priority, identify access needs along the Yellowstone River. (Sites with a high potential are identified on Map 50.) The second priority should be to identify all high quality hunting areas with access problems.

Multiple use Recommendation: R-7.2

When needs have been identified, contact should be initiated with neighboring landowners.

Multiple Use Recommendation: R-7.3

Efforts should be made to expand the S-60 program in situations where the recreation user would derive benefit.

Rationale: (Recommendation R-7.1 through R-7.3)

The diffuse land ownership pattern renders much of the BLM land inaccessible for recreational use. The situation results in over-use of other areas, and compounds the harvest problems faced by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department.

Since river use and hunting are nearly the only real recreation use within the planning area, the recreation program should make significant effort at maintaining adequate access.

The S-60 program not only provides a service to hunters but also provides protection for some ranch operators and can present a positive view of the Bureau.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Visual Resource Management (VRM) is a system used to evaluate visual resources and determine what degree of management is necessary to protect or enhance the existing visual resource.

Most of this planning area is comprised of rolling prairie and without distinct scenic features.

The one exception to this is the Terry Badlands WSA. See Map 50. Maps 49, 50 and 51 show VRM land classifications.

Objective: 1

Public land administered by the BLM shall be managed to protect, maintain and enhance the visual resource values in accordance with VRM system.

Multiple Use Recommendation: VRM-1.1, VRM-1.2, VRM-1.3 and VRM-1.4

Perform a contract rating on all Bureau development projects on class I, II, III and IV, VRM lands and adhere to VRM constraints where feasible.

The following are constraints listed by Land Class:

LC-I—requires that management activities be limited to natural ecological changes.

LC-II—requires that management activities be subordinate to natural landscape and blend, unseen by casual observers, roads, above ground utility systems, ORV use, and surface mining/drilling shall be discouraged.

LC-III—requires that while management activities may be evident to a casual visitor, they must subordinate to natural scene.

LC-IV—Management activities may be visually apparent.

Rationale:

Terry Badlands WSA as a special area requires LC-I in accordance with Bureau Policy.

The Yellowstone River with its varied scenery, color, water, and high visibility contributed to the acreage in LC-II.

Only land along primary highways warranted LC-III.

Multiple Use Recommendation: VRM-1.5

Perform an inventory on the abused tract of land near Terry. If ORV use is found to be less than the optimum use for this land, it should be closed and rehabilitated.

If it is found to be suitable for heavy ORV use, this designation should be changed.

Rationale:

This small tract presents a negative visual impact. It should be more closely managed.

WILDERNESS

The wilderness inventory has now been concluded in the New Prairie Area. Based on that inventory, the State Director approved one area to be studied for suitability.

That Wilderness Study Area is the Terry Badlands, Unit #MT-024-684. The Terry Badlands is currently being analyzed as a wilderness unit in the Missouri Breaks Wilderness EIS. Final decision on its wilderness status will await completion of that EIS.

Recommendations made herein are based on existing information levels, and may be modified, with information through the study process.

Map References

Map 50 shows WSA boundary and identified roads.

Objective: 1

Provide for the protection of all wilderness values not present in the Terry Badlands until such time as Congress acts on the issue and implements proper management tools thereafter, if a wilderness is created.

Multiple Use Recommendation: W-1.1

Recommend that the Terry Badlands WSA be designated a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System. (Preliminary Recommendation, subject to modification in subsequent EIS). If not so designated, this area will revert to multiple use management.

Rationale:

FLPMA, Sec. 603(a) and (b) requires that their suitability or nonsuitability be recommended to Congress through the President by 1991.

The appropriate recommendations also logically require procedures for proper management.

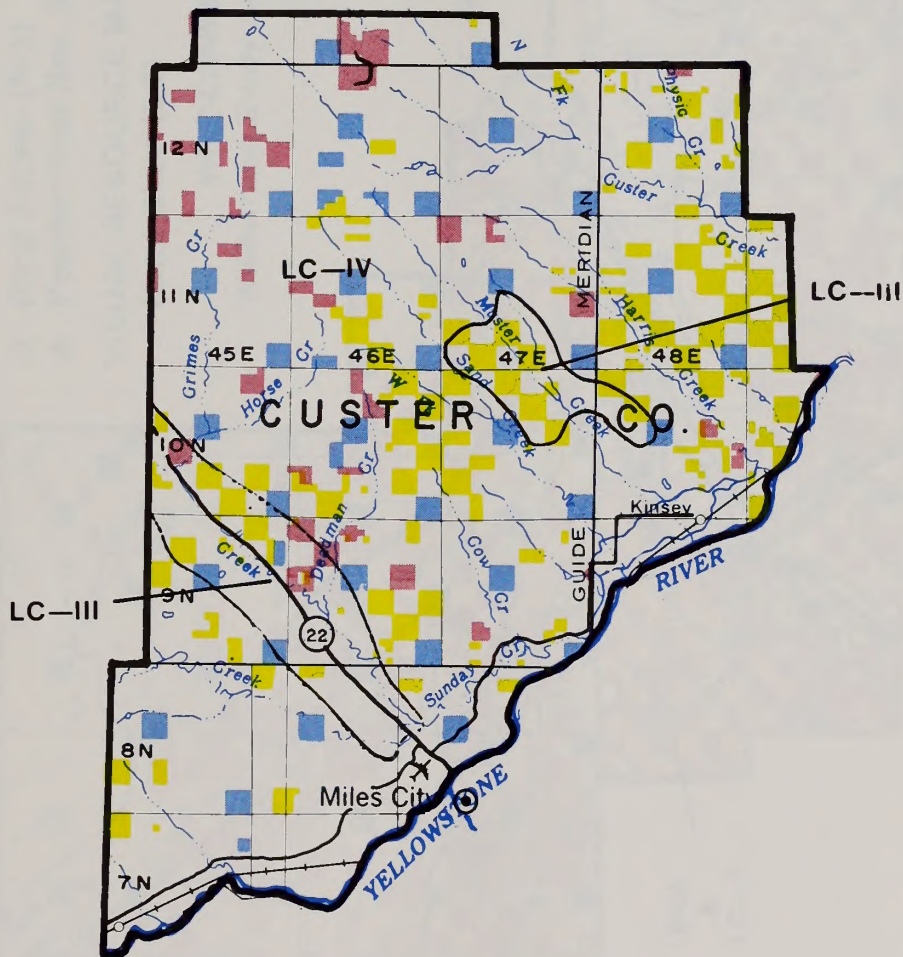
This area was inventoried for wilderness characteristics during the fall of 1978 and found to contain such necessary components. It was subsequently designated a WSA by virtue of the Montana State Director's final Wilderness Inventory Decision dated May 7, 1979.

Multiple Use Recommendation: W-1.2

Recommend that all inholdings within the perimeter of the Terry Badlands WSA be acquired by purchase or exchange.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Land Class (LC)

KINSEY
PLANNING UNIT



- BLM
- LU
- State

RECREATION

- River Access (R-2)
- ▲ Powder River Rec. Site (R-4)

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

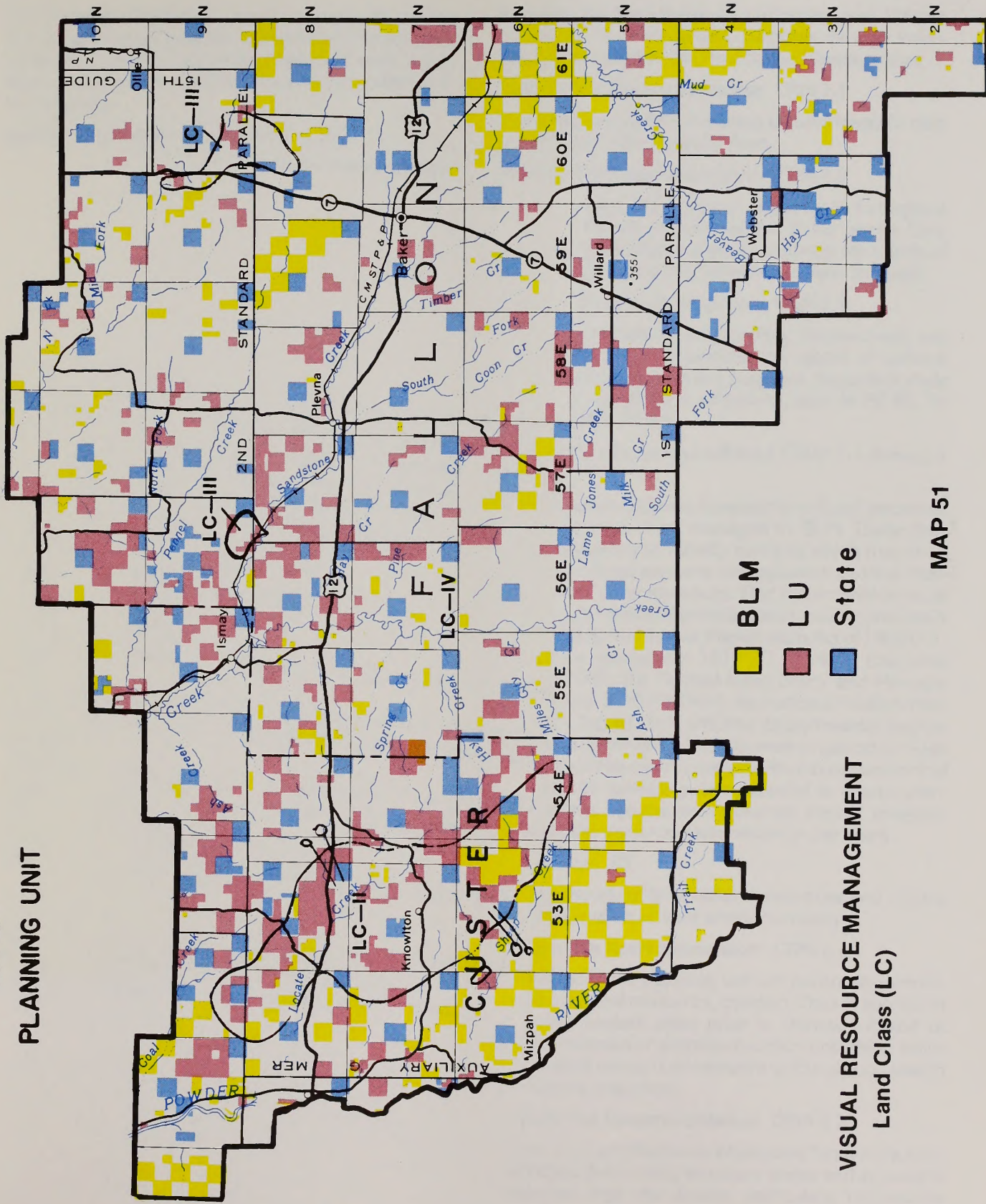
Land Class (LC)

WILDERNESS

Wilderness Study Area (WSA)



BAKER PLANNING UNIT



VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Land Class (LC)

- BLM
- LU
- State

Rationale:

Sec. 5(c) of the Wilderness Act authorizes the Secretary to acquire privately owned land within the perimeter of a wilderness area if (1) the owner concurs in such acquisition and (2) the acquisition is specifically authorized by Congress.

Multiple Use Recommendation: W-1.3

ORV activities should be limited to existing vehicle ways, (as designated by wilderness inventory) except as specifically authorized.

Rationale:

This action is required by FLPMA and Bureau Policy to maintain the wilderness integrity.

Multiple Use Recommendation: W-1.4

Manage the Terry Badlands WSA Mt-020-684 consistent with the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (dated 12-12-79) until approved by the Congress.

Rationale:

The FLPMA of 1976, Sec. 603(c), states that during the period of review . . . the Secretary shall continue to manage such lands . . . in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness. If it does not become a wilderness, the area will be returned to multiple use management.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The New Prairie Planning area promises to be rich in archaeological information, which may explain how ancient Indians lived and adapted to their environment. To date, 108 prehistoric sites have been located on public lands in the area. These are mostly campsites and places where game was killed and butchered. The analysis of stone tools from these sites indicates that almost every stage of Plains Indian cultural development from 8000 BC to AD 1800 is represented in the planning area. It also appears that this area may contain more prehistoric sites per square mile than any other region of Montana.

There are 22 historic sites identified on public land in the Planning Area so far. Other sites no doubt exist which relate to exploration of the Missouri Breaks, Indian-Army conflicts of the 1870's, commercial buffalo hunting from 1880-1883, ranching and homesteading.

(There are no map references).

Objective: 1

Increase the knowledge of prehistoric and historic properties for management purposes through inventory and research in the New Prairie Planning Area.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-1.1

Complete a synthesis of existing cultural resource data in the New Prairie Planning Area.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-1.2

Continue Class II Inventory of public lands throughout the planning unit as priorities and funds permit. Concentrate survey efforts on public land near the mouth of Powder River and along Yellowstone River frontage.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-1.3

Study selected sites through testing, data recovery, and analysis to better understand the nature of cultural resources for management purposes. Begin this study with test excavations at prehistoric sites 24 PE 65, 24 PE 70 and 24 PE 93.

Rationale: (Recommendation CRM 1.1 through 1.3)

Basic inventory data are essential for cultural resources on public lands to be managed by BLM. These data allow the agency to identify conflicts which may arise between cultural resource management and the management of other resources. That these conflicts must be taken into account in the decision making process is mandated by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-655) as amended in 1976 (P.L. 94-422), Executive Order 11593, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Departmental Regulations, and BLM Policy. The information gained through inventory will be used to comply with this legislation and guidance by providing data essential to agency planning efforts, various environmental impact analyses, and cultural resource preservation or use plans.

Objective: 2E

Protect the integrity of cultural resources and reduce the deterioration of sites where necessary.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-2.1

In all areas of the planning unit not previously inventoried for cultural resources, conduct Class III surveys of proposed project areas prior to Bureau initiated or Bureau licensed or permitted surface disturbing activities. Class III survey is an intensive on-the-ground search for cultural properties.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-2.2

Within the Terry Badlands Wilderness Study Area, conduct Class III inventory at access points and in areas of suspected high site density, particularly Yellowstone River frontage.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-2.3

Conduct Class III inventories prior to approval of any land disposal or exchange.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-2.4

Nominate to the National Register those cultural resources which appear to qualify for placement on it. Prepare activity plans on these sites to insure proper management. Begin with nomination of 24 PE 30, the Ayers-Frazier Bison Trap.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-2.5

Protect the integrity of significant cultural resources which are deteriorating due to natural processes or man-caused destruction as they become known. Begin by conducting test excavations and evaluation at sites 24 CR 170 and 24 FA 11, conduct surveillance at site 24 PE 30.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-2.6

Initiate data recovery on sites which are deteriorating from natural processes or man-caused destruction when attempts to stabilize disturbance or halt destruction are not effective.

Rationale: (Recommendation CRM-2.1 through CRM-2.6)

Cultural resources have value primarily because of the information which can be derived from their study regarding past cultural systems. Study of prehistoric and historic sites can yield information about how cultures were organized, how they related to and interacted with other cultures and their environment, and how and why they changed in response to these interactions. Many of the sites also have value because they are related to our national heritage or the heritage of specific segments of American society.

Objective: 3

Promote quality use of cultural resources in research.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-3.1

Monitor all cultural resource research on public lands within the planning unit through stipulations to Federal Antiquities Permits.

Rationale:

Same as CRM-1.2. Also, the 1906 Antiquities Act established criteria for evaluating who may do cultural resource research on public lands. The Department of Interior may grant Federal Antiquities Permits for research to be conducted "for the benefit of reputable museums, universities, colleges, or other recognized scientific or educational institutions, with a view to increasing the knowledge of such objects, and that the gatherings shall be made for permanent preservation in public museums."

Objective: CRM-4

Identify legitimate recreation use of cultural resources.

Multiple Use Recommendation: CRM-4.1

Evaluate the potential of cultural resources for legitimate recreation uses.

Begin with inventory and research into prehistoric and historic activities in the vicinity of the confluence of the Yellowstone and Powder Rivers.

Rationale:

The Bureau's 1603 recreation policy statement includes the long term objective of providing for the public use and development of cultural resource values where such development is consistent with preservation goals.

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Support activities in this MFP Area are fire management and access needed to implement resource programs, management and use of public lands. These functions may be in support of one of the resource activities or, in addition, may identify program related needs, e.g., adequate fire protection for all public lands and resources.

Objective: 1

Insure that a fire management program is developed on all public surface lands in the New Prairie MFP Area.

Multiple Use Recommendation: Fi-1.1

Initiate formal Protection Agreements with local Rural Fire Departments to protect the tracts of public lands which cannot be effectively or efficiently manned from the BLM District Office in Miles City.

Eliminate use of heavy equipment on slopes greater than 20% or when soil moisture is relatively high, except to protect human life or valuable structures. Where fire suppression has caused potentially erosive conditions, rehabilitate that same season.

Rationale:

Due to light flashy fuels and long travel distances, many fires cannot be manned effectively or efficiently from the BLM District Office in Miles City. Therefore, the BLM must rely on local fire suppression. In fighting fires, watershed values must be protected to prevent future erosion problems.

Objective: 2

Provide legal and/or physical public and administrative access to all significant public land resources.

Multiple Use Recommendation: A-1.1

Provide legal and/or physical access to public lands, for administrative and public use where legitimate needs have been identified and resource values properly evaluated.

Rationale:

Land ownership in the New Prairie Planning Area constitutes approximately 23.4% of the surface ownership. Access is needed to make valuable public resources in applicable areas available for public use and enjoyment. The authority to acquire access to public lands consistent with applicable land use plans is provided by Section 205 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Section 205 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1625, states: "The Secretary shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, acquire access to public lands in the New Prairie Planning Area for the purpose of providing for the use and enjoyment of such lands by the public."

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SECTION III

INTERRELATIONS WITH OTHER PLANS IN THE BIG DRY RESOURCE AREA

The Miles City District office has completed MFP's for federal lands in Prairie, Richland, McCone, Dawson, Wibaux and a portion of Garfield County, all within the Big Dry Resource Area. These earlier land use plans completed for portions of the Big Dry Area were the Haxby, Musselshell, McCone, Prairie, and Redwater MFP's. The New Prairie MFP, together with the Jordan-North Rosebud MFP, will complete this planning phase for the Big Dry Resource Area.

A Big Dry Vegetation Allocation (Range Management) Environmental Impact Statement will be completed by September 1982. That Environmental Statement will discuss alternative vegetative allocations for the Redwater, New Prairie, and Jordan-North Rosebud Planning Areas.

In addition to other public resources, the Redwater MFP identified areas "acceptable for further consideration for leasing" that are contributing to the initial areas being considered for lease sale in 1984 in the Fort Union Coal Region. The coal areas selected for possible lease sale will be further analyzed with alternatives in a Fort Union Regional Coal Environmental Impact Statement to be completed in January 1983.

An Environmental Impact Statement covering the candidate wilderness areas in the Miles City and Lewistown Districts of the BLM will be completed by the Lewistown

District Office in September 1982. Two Wilderness Study Areas, the Terry Badlands (WSA 684) and Musselshell Breaks (WSA 677) addressed in the current MFP's, will be included in that EIS.

A Grazing Environmental Statement was prepared for the Missouri Breaks portion of Miles City and Lewistown District Offices of the Montana BLM. The environmental statement became final on October 15, 1979. Decisions reached in the MFPs were consistent with those discussed in the Missouri Breaks Environmental Statement.

A Water Quality Management Plan was prepared by the Yellowstone-Tongue Areawide Planning Organization under a "Section 208" grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This plan is in effect. The Missouri River Basin Commission included the planning area in their Yellowstone River Basin and Adjacent Coal Area Level B Study. Montana Department of Health and Environmental Science completed a water quality management plan for the Lower Yellowstone Basin in 1975.

Custer and Rosebud Counties have completed comprehensive plans for their areas, while Fallon County has prepared a comprehensive plan only for the Baker area. The New Prairie MFP decisions are consistent with these planning efforts.

SECTION IV

SUMMARY OF MAJOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION EFFORTS

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND USE PLAN

During the period June to August, 1979, interviews were conducted with selected community and ranch/farm individuals in the Big Dry Resource Area. The objective of this survey was to gather public identification of issues relevant to the BLM planning process.

Notice of Intent to prepare MFP's for the new Prairie and Jordan-North Rosebud planning areas was published in the Federal Register May 21, 1980.

Public meetings to provide the opportunity for the public to identify and discuss issues on public resources administered by the BLM were held in Baker, Miles City, Forsyth, Terry, and Jordan during May 1980. An inter-agency coordination meeting was also held in Miles City during May to discuss issues, problems, procedures, and time frames pertinent to land use planning and environmental assessment in on-going and scheduled projects.

BLM planning projects were discussed with the Northern Cheyenne, Crow and Assiniboine Tribes during July 1980 with the objective of mutual coordination and information.

On August 29, 1980, brochures describing the public resource issues identified from all sources and the general criteria for development of management proposals in the BLM planning process were sent to approximately 3,350 addressees in the New Prairie and Jordan-North Rosebud planning areas.

On January 16, 1981, Planning Criteria for the New Prairie and Jordan-North Rosebud MFP's were published (see Federal Register Notice of 1-61-81).

Certified letters explaining surface owner provisions of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977 were sent to surface owners of record (county courthouse) over federal coal in the Known Recoverable Coal Resource Areas (KRCRAs) or preliminary KRCRAs in the planning areas on January 20, 1981.

At the request of land owners in the Plevna area, BLM representatives and Western Energy Company representatives met at Plevna February 2, 1981, for the purpose of informing the community of the surface owner provisions of the SMCRA, and the general coal situation for that area.

PREPARATION OF THE EIS

The Federal Register of March 12, 1981, published the Notice of Intent to prepare the Big Dry Vegetation Allocation EIS.

On March 17, 1981, brochures explaining the proposed alternatives to be covered in the Big Dry EIS were sent to approximately 1,100 addressees.

Public scoping meetings to explain the Big Dry EIS project and provide the opportunity for the public to make suggestions and comments pertaining to the proposal were held March 23, 1981, in Terry, and March 24, 1981, in Baker.

Opportunities for additional public input to the EIS will be announced at a later date.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT TO THE MFP

The draft MFP Summaries are scheduled to be mailed to the public for review by the end of November. Notice of the time and place for public meetings for review and comment on the MFP will be announced later.

Subsequent to completion of the Big Dry Vegetation Allocation EIS and the Wilderness EIS (both scheduled to be published by September 30, 1982) final MFP decisions will be developed. Opportunity for public input will again be provided.

SECTION V

ACTIONS AFTER THE MFP STEP 2

Two EIS's are being developed for several of the public resources in this planning area, a vegetation allocation and a wilderness environmental impact statement. The EIS for vegetation allocation will be developed from the MFP Step 2 multiple use recommendations for this MFP and the Jordan-North Rosebud MFP, and, the multiple use decisions in the Redwater MFP completed in 1979. The range management, watershed, and wildlife resources are anticipated to be the most affected public resources in these areas, however, all resources affected by vegetation allocation will be considered. This "Big Dry" EIS is scheduled for completion September 30, 1982.

Wilderness recommendations in this planning area are processed in this MFP. These and the recommendations in the Jordan-North Rosebud MFP will be carried into and analyzed with the wilderness recommendations for the Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the Musselshell MFP area in the Wilderness MFP Amendment for the Missouri Breaks being developed by the Lewistown and Miles City Districts. The wilderness EIS is also scheduled for completion September 30, 1982.

Recommendations for the public coal resource are also included in this MFP. No coal EIS for this planning area has yet been scheduled. Multiple use restrictions-conflicts, unsuitability criteria and surface owner consultation processes have been applied to the federal coal in the KRCRAs and proposed KRCRAs.

The federal coal which has not been proposed for deletion by one or more of these processes is designated "acceptable for further consideration for leasing pending further study", because of the level and coverage of inventory data available for the required analysis.

Social and economic impacts of the coal program are not fully assessed in this project since leasing or development decisions are not made. These concerns will continue to be analyzed and a more thorough assessment of impacts will be done in the resource activity planning stage.

These draft MFP Summaries are being mailed to federal range livestock operators in the planning area, surface owners (in the KRCRA and proposed KRCRAs) of record in the county courthouse, federal, state, and local governments, minerals companies and various special interest groups and organizations who have had previous involvement with, or have indicated an interest in, BLM land use planning, or have requested to receive our publications.

Comments on the multiple use recommendations are solicited at this time so that your comments may be analyzed in the EIS's in progress and incorporated in the multiple use decisions which will be made in the fall of 1982. Opportunity for public review of those decisions will be provided at that time.

SECTION V ACTIONS AFTER THE MAP STEP 2

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